SC to Miriam: Congress no refuge for wrongdoers

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 5

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2001 ★ 64 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 132 ₱15

6 die in dam project accident

BY YOLANDA FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Six workers died and four others were injured Thursday after the cable of a platform snapped, plunging them 50 meters into a tunnel of the $1.2-billion San Roque dam project in San Nicolas, Pangasinan.

6 DIE/ A15

IN *Saturday*SPECIAL

- Pierce Brosnan does a double-agent twist in 'The Tailor of Panama'
- Fun and frolic at Charlene's bridal showers
- Make way for singer-comedian Andy Bais

BROSNAN

Estrada's arrest seen next week

House arrest out of the question, says Garchitorena

BY JOWEL F. CANUDAY AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

THE WARRANT for Joseph Estrada's arrest on the charge of plunder could be issued next week.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said in Davao City that the arrest warrant was to have been issued by the Sandiganbayan yesterday but that Rene Saguisag, one of Estrada's lawyers, requested the anti-graft court last Wednesday to postpone its issuance for five days.

The five-day suspension requested by Saguisag expires on Monday, Perez noted.

But Sandigan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena said yesterday that "we can all begin to speculate when Monday comes."

"I am not saying that things will happen on Monday. I am saying today that it's not likely to happen, and that we'll have to wait," he said in an interview.

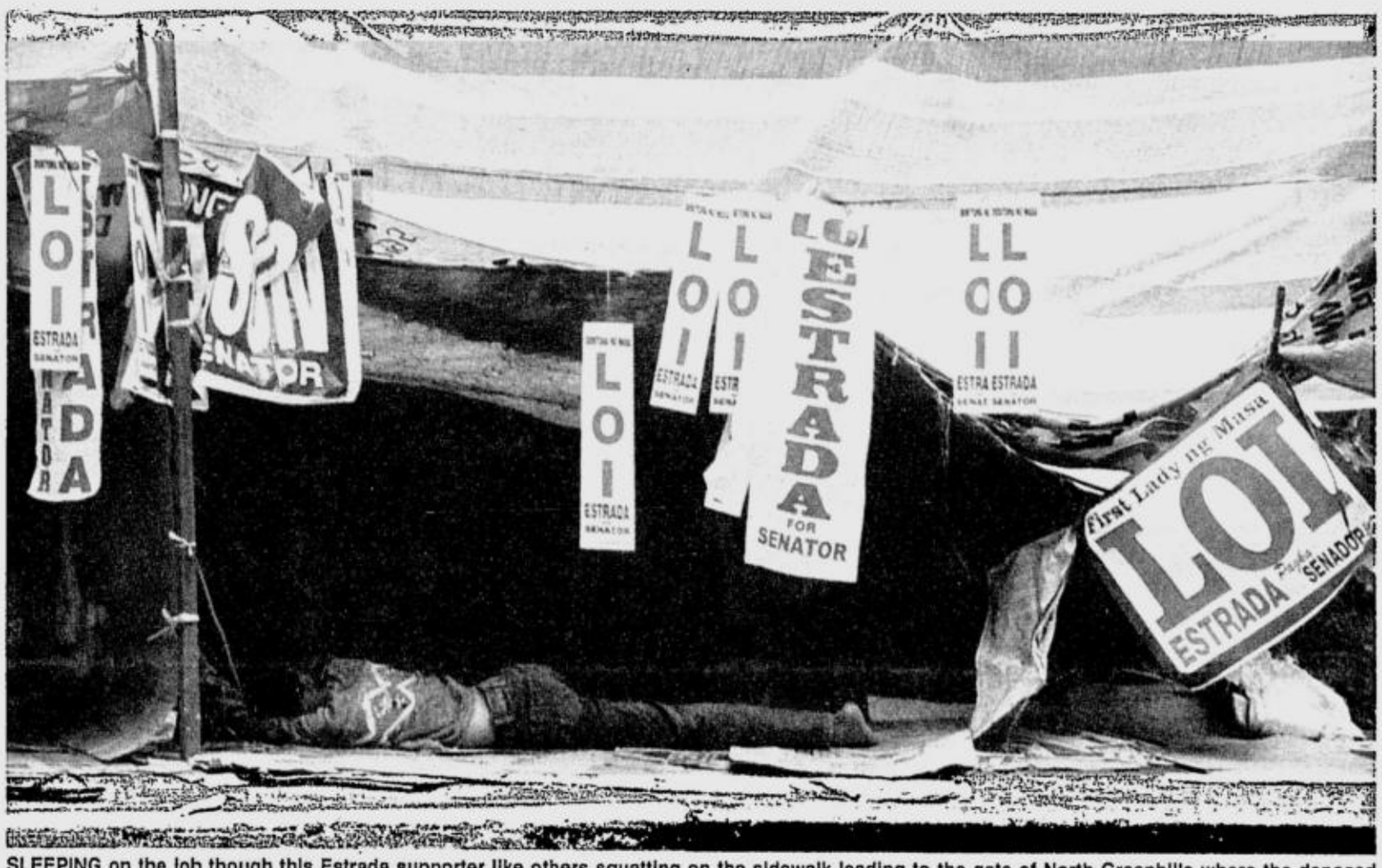
Garchitorena said that on Monday, the members of the anti-graft court's third division that is handling the plunder case would "probably have to complete their studies, or continue to study."

"We cannot anticipate (the issue of the arrest warrant) too much," he added.

Perez said he and the staff of former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, Estrada's chief counsel at his aborted impeachment trial, were in touch by phone from Thursday night until dawn yesterday, discussing the procedures of the ex-president's surrender.

He said there was no need for the government to make a "show of force" when the arrest warrant is served.

ESTRADA'S/ A15



SLEEPING on the job though this Estrada supporter like others squatting on the sidewalk leading to the gate of North Greenhills where the deposed President lives, has vowed to prevent the arrest of their idol. ERNIE SARMIENTO

MOTION TO WITHDRAW

Prosecutors grope for 'legal basis'

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

THE GOVERNMENT'S legal team is hard put to cite a legal basis for its motion to withdraw the graft cases it had filed against Joseph Estrada.

At a hearing yesterday afternoon, Special Prosecutor Jesus Micael told the Sandiganbayan's fifth division that state prosecutors wanted to withdraw the graft case based on the BW Resources scam to expedite the plunder case filed against the ex-president.

When the court, chaired by Justice Minita Chico-Nazario, asked him to cite the legal ground for the motion to withdraw, Micael said this was not cited in their manifestation.

PROSECUTORS/ A15

No frills, few friends at Erap's birthday

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN AND VOLT CONTRERAS

OLONGAPO CITY—"Is that your standard of loyalty?" former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara scoffed when asked about his and fellow opposition senatorial candidates' conspicuous absence from public events marking Joseph Estrada's 64th birthday on Thursday.

Candidates who were no-shows at those events dismissed speculation that they had withdrawn their support for their embattled leader.

Angara, president of Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, said he and 12 other LDP-Puwersa ng Masa candidates joined Estrada for dinner that night at his Polk Street home in Greenhills.

Estrada spent the evening with old friends from show biz, business and politics.

A guest said the former President was in a "casual mood" throughout the party. There was some singing but Estrada did not join in.

"There was no fanfare, really. He just went around, talking to everybody. People were still arriving, especially those from the campaign trail, even when it was already two in the morning," the guest said.

Of the 13 LDP-PnM senatorial candidates, only three joined Estrada when he visited his favorite squatter communities earlier Thursday.

Former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, former presidential adviser Jamby Madrigal, and Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago showed up with Estrada at the "Erap City" resettlement area in Taytay, Rizal, in the morning.

The three attended Mass with Estrada and stayed throughout a program that included his traditional gift-giving ceremony for the former San Juan residents who had been relocated to Taytay.

But the three were no longer with the deposed leader when he visited other squatter communities in

NO/ A15

Suspect disowns wife's suit

"I WAS not forced to execute my affidavit," Insp. Bobby Lancaouan tells the media to counter his wife's assertion that he is being held by police against his will. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA

THE WIFE of a suspect in the Dacer abduction case is set to withdraw a petition filed against police authorities, after her husband went home the other night and assured her that he had not been forcibly taken by his fellow policemen and was not being held against his will.

"I was not forced to execute my affidavit. I volunteered to do so," said Insp. Bobby Lancaouan, one of 22 suspects in the double-murder case of Salvador Dacer and Emmanuel Corbito.

In a bid to dispel reports that he was being held illegally, Lancaouan held a news conference to say he did not know why his wife Araceli had filed the petition for habeas corpus when he was not even declared missing.

"All I know was that last Thursday, lawyer Gadwin Valdez went to our house (in the Camp Crame compound) bringing with him the petition that was ready for signing," Lancaouan said in Filipino. "Told that it would be for my benefit, my wife signed without knowing what habeas corpus was all about."

Accompanied by Valdez, he said, his wife filed the petition—which asked the Court of Appeals to compel police authorities to produce Lancaouan in court—on the same day.

Lancaouan said "someone," whom he refused to name, sent the lawyer to their house.

SUSPECT/ A15

Mendoza: Ping liable for men's crimes

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

EVEN without evidence directly linking Panfilo Lacson Jr. to the Dacer-Corbito murder case, the former Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force chief could still be held criminally liable because suspects allegedly took "official orders" from the "central command" headed by his aides, Lacson's successor said yesterday.

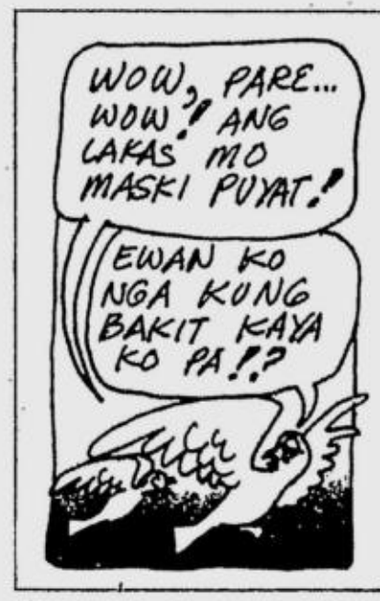
Lacson "could be held accountable for all the illegal operations undertaken by his men as these crimes were committed when he was still in the active service, when he was still the chief of PAOCTF and the (PNP). This includes the Dacer-Corbito case," PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza said at a forum at the Hotel Inter-Continental.

Contacted by phone for comment, "Ping" Lacson sounded angry and exasperated.

"We had no illegal operations. What illegal operation is he talking about? I kept my nose clean," he said in Taglish.

Told that Mendoza mentioned the Dacer case, Lacson retorted:

MENDOZA/ A4



It's fowl play when pigeons fly 'high'

BRUSSELS, Belgium—When it comes to doping, nothing is sacred anymore. In Belgium, the home of pigeon racing, a big police raid discovered suspicious-looking materials that could indicate birds are ingesting more than top-quality feed.

For several years, it's been rumored that some breeders, once they closed the door to their pigeon lofts behind them,

IT'S/ A15

MESSAGE TO MIRIAM

Congress no refuge for wrongdoers–SC

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

SENATORS and congressmen can no longer hide behind the walls of Congress should any of them be found guilty of offenses that they committed before they assumed office.

This was the doctrine the Supreme Court laid down when it ruled that Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago could not invoke her being a senator to dodge the 90-day suspension meted out to her by the Sandiganbayan for violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, or Republic Act No. 3019.

The Supreme Court laid down the ruling despite a decision reached by the Sandiganbayan First Division in December 1999 acquitting Santiago of the graft charges filed against her.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed in 1988 by employees

CONGRESS/ A15

Second FRONT PAGE

Norway talks start April 27

BY DONNA S. CUETO

NORWAY is it.

The Norwegian government has agreed to host the peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the communist National Democratic Front beginning April 27.

Presidential adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita said yesterday the Norwegian government sent a note verbale Wednesday to the Department of Foreign Affairs confirming its hosting of the talks in Oslo, Norway's capital.

"So the peace talks would push through on April 27," Ermita said.

The members of the government panel led by Silvestre Bello III are busy preparing for the negotiations which will seek to end 32 years of conflict between the government and the communists.

Ermita said only the five panel members would be at the talks representing the government and he himself would remain in the Philippines.

"They are going there with a memorandum of instructions from President Macapagal-Arroyo," he said.

He said NDF chief consultant Jose Maria Sison will attend the Oslo talks from his exile base in the Netherlands.

"So *talagang tuloy-tuloy na ito*. (So it's really pushing through.) Hopefully both panels would finally come to an agreement," he said.

While many Filipinos greeted the news of the peace talks with optimism, there are some who feel the Macapagal administration is ready to surrender the country's sovereignty to the communist NDF, according to Sen. Blas Ople.

Ople chairs the Senate committee on foreign relations. He made the statement at a press conference yesterday.

Ople said the administration has been too willing to give in to the demands of the NDF.

He cited the government's accession to the holding of the peace talks in Norway.

He said President Macapagal might be thinking she could win a Nobel Peace prize where her predecessors Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos had failed.

Ople and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense, both urged the President to reject a reported NDF demand that the government abrogate the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

"The VFA constitutes a cornerstone of the Philippine security structure and a vital aspect of our foreign relations," Ople said. "I don't see how this treaty could be abrogated without enormous implications to our national security."

Biazon said making the scrapping of the VFA a condition for the resumption of the peace talks with the NDF could bring about the early collapse of the negotiations.

He said that if the NDF considers the abrogation of the VFA a major issue, it should say so during the main talks and not during the preliminary stages.

The VFA allows US military forces to enter the Philippines and use its facilities during joint exercises with the AFP.

Its passage became controversial because of the question of sovereignty, particularly of the Philippine government, over erring American military personnel.

Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. recalled how the approval by Norway of the hosting of the peace talks in its capital came about.

He said that last Monday, the Norwegian ambassador to the Philippines called on him to ask for more details about the plan to hold the peace talks in his country.

"He wanted to get more details. We gave them to him and he conveyed to me that he was going to secure from his government its final decision," Guingona said.

For his part, Ermita said the integration of members of the New People's Army into the Armed Forces of the Philippines was in "the realm of possibilities." The NPA is the military arm of the NDF.

"These are matters that have to be discussed at the negotiating table," he said.

Ermita said the disposition of the rebel forces and their firearms would be among the last items on the peace talks agenda.

He said it would be better not to use the phrase "surrender of firearms" in the negotiations with the NDF.

"Maybe there could be certain arrangements on how the firearms of the other side could be disposed of in exchange for certain items pertaining to socio-economic reform, political reform, etc.

"But at this particular time, it is premature to talk about the surrender of firearms," Ermita said.

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RP welcomes Wahid asylum offer to Salamat

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

THE PHILIPPINE government is not upset by Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid's offer of asylum to a senior Filipino Moro rebel leader.

Malacañang officials said yesterday they welcomed the offer of Wahid for Moro Islamic Liberation Front leader Hashim Salamat to live on the tiny Indonesian island of Pantar Barat.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the Palace was open to studying the matter.

"We have to process the offer and have perhaps the Cabinet cluster study it and make the corresponding recommendation to the President," Reyes told the INQUIRER.

Reyes said they viewed the proposal as a "sign of concern and goodwill on the part of Mr. Wahid, so that's welcome."

"We believe President Wahid only made the offer to show his solidarity with a fellow Asean country," said presidential adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita, referring to the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

On Thursday, Wahid had offered to host and mediate in peace talks between the Philippine government and the MILF, which has been fighting for a separate state in the southern Philippines.

The Indonesian leader had said his government was making available Pantar Barat, an island in the bay of Jakarta, to Salamat "should he choose to go away from the Philippines."

"Maybe he believes they could help in the negotiations, that's why he made the offer," Ermita said of Wahid's invitation.

He noted that in 1986, Indonesia brokered a peace pact between Manila and the larger Moro National Liberation Front, which gave up its rebellion for a limited Muslim autonomy in the south.

The 12,500-strong MILF splintered from the MNLF in 1978 and was not included in the accord. It has been fighting for an independent Islamic state for the past two decades.

The Philippine government and the MILF at a secret meeting in Malaysia last month agreed to resume peace talks by June. They have issued unilateral ceasefires. *With reports from AFP and AP*

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New presidential spokesman says Gloria not 'hard to sell'

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

JOURNALIST Rigoberto D. Tiglao, who assumes the post of Presidential Spokesperson on Monday, sees an easier job of projecting a President known for "clean living."

Unlike deposed President Estrada, President Macapagal was not "hard to sell," the former INQUIRER columnist said.

Interviewed after his swearing-in yesterday, Tiglao said that with Estrada, the 'biggest problem was the material."

He was commenting on the advice on his new job offered by fellow INQUIRER columnist, Fernando Barican, who found the job of being spokesperson for Estrada "anything but easy."

"Jerry had an almost impossible task, you know the problems of the past presidency," said Tiglao, referring to Estrada's alleged late-night drinking, gambling, womanizing, incompetence and propensity for corruption.

It was not a mere problem of "packaging," he said.

"No matter how hard you package it, the product was really bad," he said. "Jerry is a very good lawyer, an academic, but he was talking for somebody who was his opposite . . . I don't think Jerry even drinks."

Furthermore, Tiglao said he was coming in at a time when the President is getting much better treatment from the press.

He said this was because Ms Macapagal tried to explain "everything," has regular press briefings and has made herself "accessible to the press."

Asked what marching orders he got from the President, Tiglao said the President's instructions were for him to "just be candid."

"Just articulate what we are doing . . . less glitz, less *porma*, more substance," he said, quoting the President.

Warned of the proverbial "snake pit" in the Palace, Tiglao said that that might be an exaggeration, pointing out that problems are bound to occur in any organization.

The advantage of the present administration, he said, is that the Cabinet appears to be "united" and its members are perceived to have "no agenda but to serve the country."

"If the agenda is clear, there will be no infighting or back-stabbing," he said, noting that there appears to be no rival blocs either.

Tiglao said his background in economics will serve him well in articulating the policies of the President. Ms Macapagal, who is herself an economist, was known to have sought a spokesperson knowledgeable in business and economics.

Prior to his appointment, Tiglao was senior vice president and editor in chief of the news website, Inq7.net, a joint venture of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network.

Malaysia says it's ready to host talks on South

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Malaysia is ready to host peace talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels if asked to do so, Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said yesterday.

But any assistance from Malaysia in bringing peace to the southern Philippines would not extend to granting political asylum to the rebels, he said.

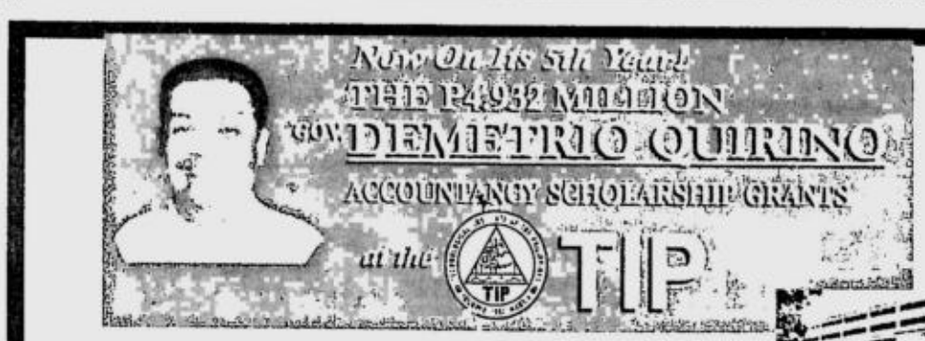
"If they want us to play a role and they think we can play a useful role, of course we are willing to do that," Syed told reporters Friday. "But the terms of reference must be clear on our role."

Last month, MILF rebels and the Philippine government signed an agreement in Kuala Lumpur for an indefinite unilateral ceasefire and to resume talks. MILF officials who attended the talks also met with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad who expressed support to the peace talks.

Syed Hamid also said Malaysia was willing to provide more assistance to secure peace in its eastern neighbor, provided "our investors feel secure about the security situation."

"Malaysia has been very forthcoming in helping the Philippines and in this regard we will help in any way possible," Syed Hamid said.

But, "it is not our desire or obligation to provide asylum for anyone," he said. *AP*



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Schilling says wife Ivy's honor led to his capture

OAKLAND, California—An American hostage rescued from Abu Sayyaf Muslim rebels in Sulu said Thursday he was taken captive while defending his wife's honor.

"Some of the relatives of my wife had been accusing us of an illicit sexual relationship," Jeffrey Schilling wrote in an e-mail interview. "This is a serious offense in Islam."

Schilling, 25, was rescued April 12 by the Philippine military more than seven months after he walked into a rebel camp on Jolo island "to resolve a personal, family matter, which was made into an international circus by the greed of Abu Sabaya," a rebel leader the couple was to meet.

The Californian, whose Filipino Muslim wife, Ivy Osani, is a second cousin of Abu Sabaya and is also related to other Abu Sayyaf commanders, was the last foreign hostage held by the rebels in a kidnapping spree which began in April 2000.

Due to his wife's links with the Abu Sayyaf, Schilling had been widely seen as a "willing" hostage.

A son of Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi who headed a Muslim charity foundation that helped negotiate the release of some of the foreign hostages even accused Schilling of being an arms dealer. *AFP*

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Ombudsman hit on plunder case

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

THE MAN who filed a P1.2-billion plunder case against ousted President Joseph Estrada and El Shaddai leader Bro. Mariano "Mike" Velarde yesterday accused the Office of the Ombudsman of "weakening his case."

Lawyer Ernesto B. Francisco Jr. charged that Ombudsman Aniano Desierto and his deputy, Margarito Gervacio Jr., did not follow "standard operating procedures" when they ordered a preliminary investigation of his charges instead of an initial fact-finding probe.

Francisco said that without the initial probe, the Ombudsman would not be able to subpoena 18 persons who could produce "more than a hundred pertinent documents" in the plunder case he filed against Estrada, Velarde and 14 others.

"Under the law, the Ombudsman is mandated to conduct a fact-finding investigation to strengthen the case," Francisco said. "All I want is to strengthen my case."

Francisco said he wanted to avoid what happened to another plunder case he had filed against former executive secretary Ronaldo Zamora and several others.

In that P2.4-billion plunder case against Zamora, the Ombudsman also referred the case for preliminary investigation instead of a fact-finding probe, thus preventing Francisco from obtaining vital documents and testimonies from other witnesses by subpoena.

Zamora's lawyers had argued that subpoenas could no longer be issued by the Ombudsman when a case is in the preliminary investigation stage.

"I precisely filed five urgent motions last April 16 and 17 with the Ombudsman to make sure that what happened to my other case would not be repeated," Francisco said.

Francisco had charged that Velarde, through his Amvel Land Development Corp., sold an eight-hectare parcel in 1999 in Parañaque to the government for the C-5 road project at an overprice.

He said that Velarde, who was Estrada's spiritual adviser, made some P828.6 million from the sweetheart deal which saw him selling at P14,000 per square meter a lot valued at only P2,000 per square meter.

Estrada was included in the complaint because he had reportedly ordered the unusually speedy release of the funds to pay Velarde.

Yulo: I had no part in P1.2-B deal

FORMER Public Estates Authority (PEA) Chairman and General Manager Arsenio B. Yulo Jr. yesterday denied any participation in the controversial purchase by the government of land owned by Mariano "Brother Mike" Velarde for P1.2 billion.

The land deal has triggered the filing of a complaint for plunder by lawyer Ernesto B. Francisco before the Office of the Ombudsman against former President Estrada, Velarde and several others, including Yulo.

In a statement, Yulo said that records would show that the transactions were finalized and the payments for the purchase were made during the administration of President Estrada when he was no longer the chair and general manager of the PEA. "There is no basis for my inclusion as respondent in the complaint," he said.

"I did not sign any contract nor authorize any payment thereon. As a matter of fact, I turned down several requests for payment during my term because I did not find the papers in order and wanted staff work thereon to be completed," Yulo added.

3 more Senate bets Okd

THE FIELD of senatorial candidates in the May 14 elections has been widened from 34 to 37 aspirants with the Commission on Elections approving three more candidates, two of whom it had earlier dismissed as "nuisance" candidates.

In separate resolutions issued recently, the poll body approved the candidacies of Moro Islamic Liberation Front peace negotiator Moner Bajunaid; former Cagayan de Oro City mayor and assemblyman Reuben Canoy of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino; and retired Air Force colonel and businessman Eddie Gil of the Partido Isang Bansa Isang Diwa.

The Comelec earlier rejected the candidacies of Bajunaid and Gil, along with 31 other "nuisance" candidates who, it said, "cannot wage a nationwide campaign, thus preventing a faithful determination of the true will of the electorate."

Bajunaid and Gil appealed the decision, claiming they were supported by accredited political parties with nationwide constituencies and track records in previous elections.

Canoy merely substituted for LDP partymate Alberto Fenix Jr. who withdrew his candidacy on the same day that he filed it, for "personal reasons." Substitution is allowed under Section 77 of the Omnibus Election Code. *Gerald Lacuarta*

Erap gun raises stir

HANDLERS of ousted President Joseph Estrada were deluged with press queries after a newspaper photo showed the disgraced leader with a pistol within easy reach during a tour of depressed areas on his 64th birthday on Thursday.

The Manila Standard's main front page photo yesterday showed Estrada about to alight from the front passenger seat of a van, with what appeared to be a holstered Cal .45 pistol on the floor right next to his left foot.

The way the gun was positioned indicated that it was meant for the use of Estrada, and not his driver-bodyguard.

But Jesus Crispin "Boying" Remulla, one of Estrada's legal advisers, claimed that the gun belonged to his bodyguard.

"It was only misplaced. The President doesn't carry a gun," Remulla said in a phone interview.

Another Estrada aide, however, justified the ousted Estrada's carrying a gun.

"But isn't it just normal, a security SOP? Retired generals do that," said the aide, who requested anonymity.

Other Estrada handlers at his Greenhills residence refused to answer questions on the matter. *Volt Contreras*

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The rape of the SSS and the GSIS

Erap's cronies and mistress got millions from our pension funds

Bad news for SSS and GSIS members.

The SSS and the GSIS lost more than P8 billion on the Equitable PCI Bank alone. The SSS also lost P150 million on Belle Resources. Both are owned by Erap's cronies.

Erap ordered the GSIS and the SSS, according to their administrators, to buy Equitable PCI shares at P290. Now a share is worth about P50.

Similarly, Erap ordered the SSS from 1998 to 1999 to increase its "investment" in Belle from P150 million to P1.3 billion. The SSS also lent Belle P375 million—secured with real property worth much less than the loan amount.

Even after the Supreme Court banned jai alai, one of Belle's enterprises, the SSS bought more shares, bringing its holdings to P450 million by December 2000.

Meanwhile, one of Erap's alleged mistresses took over a third-rate stockbrokerage. It earned huge commissions on more than P900 million worth of SSS and GSIS stock purchases.

Long wait for burial aid

These are only a few of the abuses of the pension funds by Erap and his cronies. Because of them, there will be no increase in pension rates, no quick salary loans, fewer housing loans and longer wait for burial assistance. But Erap, his cronies and mistresses don't care one bit, because they already have their fat commissions.

What can we do? *First*, do not return Erap's minions to power. *Second*, in the Senate, I will keep watch over our money. *Third*, I will see to it that worker and employee benefits are all increased.

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Mendoza: Ping liable for men's crimes

(From page A1)

"Let them prove their case first. Won't they stop (harassing) me? They're ganging up on me.

"I never indulged in illegal activities," he added, before hanging up on an INQUIRER reporter.

On Thursday, Lacson, an opposition senatorial candidate, told reporters that he could not be administratively charged with command responsibility for the murders of PR man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and driver Emmanuel Corbito because he was no longer in government service.

But administration senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo, a former House prosecutor in Joseph Estrada's aborted impeachment trial, took Mendoza's reasoning a step further, and said that both Estrada and Lacson had command responsibility in the case.

Arroyo said the two were the top guns of the now defunct PAOCTF.

Mendoza said at least 22 suspects, including 14 former PAOCTF officers, have been identified as participants in the Dacer-Corbito murders.

PAOCTF resources, such as high-tech surveillance equipment, high-powered firearms and three vehicles, were even used in carrying out the crime, he said.

"When you are the commander of a unit, you are directly responsible for what the unit has done. In the case of Dacer, PAOCTF units from Luzon and Cebu participated in the crime but there was close coordination among them. *Hindi puwedeng sila-sila lang yan* (It's not possible they were acting on their own). There was a central command. *May nagmamando diyan* (Someone gave them orders)," Mendoza said.

Asked if Lacson could be innocent, Mendoza said: "That I cannot answer."

Ping's appeal

In a press release, Lacson reiterated his appeal to the National Bureau of Investigation and the PNP "not to resort to foul means—like fabricating evidence and putting words into the mouth of supposed witnesses—in their attempt to unmask the mastermind."

Lacson made the statement a day after attending a Senate hearing wherein top NBI and PNP officials maintained that the former PNP chief's name was never mentioned in the investigation of suspects in the abduction of Dacer and his driver.

He appealed to the NBI and the PNP to be "fair and circumspect" in investigating the Dacer-Corbito case "because so many names are being dragged into it."

"There is so much disinformation going around and in the process innocent persons are being dragged into it," he said in the statement.

'Big chance'

Mendoza, however, said that what he was sure of was that some of the suspects were police majors, lieutenant colonels and that these PAOCTF officers got their orders from their superiors, who could be the masterminds.

"These masterminds are usually not physically present in carrying out the crime. They are far from the crime scene but they are the ones issuing the orders, even orders to kill," Mendoza said.

Asked if he was implying that Lacson and Estrada might have been the masterminds, Mendoza said: "I don't know if they are the masterminds. We are not ready to name names. What I can say is that we are pursuing the case to unmask the masterminds and there's a big chance that we can get them."

Task force agents in police custody have admitted to abducting and killing Dacer and Corbito on Nov. 24, but said they were acting under orders and under the mistaken impression that the victims were leaders of kidnapping and drug rings.

Arroyo said that even before the PAOCTF was created under the Estrada administration, there was the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, which was under Estrada when he was vice president.

"All the scandals—kidnappings, carnappings and lately drugs—are all traceable to these units. So what can the former president say about, and what can Ping Lacson say about it?" Arroyo said.

'Nothing personal'

Mendoza brushed aside Lacson's claim that statements seeming to implicate him in the murder case were politically motivated since he was running for senator.

"*Walang personalan* (It's nothing personal). We are only trying to solve the crime, to deliver justice," he said.

He said some of the suspects were cooperative and expressed willingness to name the masterminds.

"The suspects even felt betrayed by their superiors for making them believe that the operation was legitimate and that Dacer was the financier and leader of a kidnapping syndicate," Mendoza said.

Pressed to identify these superiors, Mendoza said: "*Lalabas lahat ang totoo* (The truth will come out). It's just a matter of time."

He cited the case of Supt. Teofilo Viña, former chief of the PAOCTF Visayas, who was subjected to an "intense tactical interrogation."

"There was no evidence that Viña directly participated in the killing but he was being pinpointed as having done so. There was no evidence to prove that he was present at the crime scene. That's why he is under our custody to find out why his men, among them those from Cebu like Chief Insp. Vicente Arnado, were involved," Mendoza said.

'Round-the-clock guessing'

Arnado, he said, was with Supt. Glenn Dumlao, a close and trusted aide of Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, PAOCTF special projects officer, when Dacer was abducted.

Some reports say that Arnado is in Hawaii, but his wife says that he is in Manila.

Mendoza said more witnesses were coming forward to help them pin down the masterminds.

Activists from the militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya scored the NBI for "round-the-clock guessing" in its handling of the Dacer investigation.

"Let us stop this round-the-clock guessing game; if the NBI and the PNP have resolved this case, then by all means, let the public know the people behind these gruesome murders," said Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpuz.

Almonte's theory

Lacson's woes do not end with the Dacer case.

Mendoza said the police force was compiling an inventory of allegedly illegal operations conducted by the defunct PAOCTF. He said his men were now reviewing and evaluating all the cases the PAOCTF allegedly mishandled, as well as the officer who handled these cases.

In the same forum, former National Security Adviser Jose Almonte claimed that Dacer could have been "silenced" to prevent him from mounting a media campaign against Estrada, Lacson and presidential friend Charlie "Atong" Ang during the impeachment trial.

Almonte, a Ramos administration official and former intelligence officer, has himself been accused of mounting smear jobs against the Estrada camp.

Dacer was abducted and killed a few weeks before the impeachment trial began on Dec. 7.

Citing letters sent to him by Dacer and based on his conversation with the slain PR man, Almonte claimed that the publicist had documents that could allegedly pin down Estrada in the BW Resources stock scandal.

He also claimed that Dacer had in his possession documents that could allegedly link top formal officials to illegal drugs.

As far as Ang was concerned, Almonte said, Dacer expressed concern that Estrada was angry with him because the then president thought he was helping Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson in the "Juetengate" scandal.

Almonte repeated that Dacer supposedly wrote him to say that he had to personally meet with him because he was afraid that the Estrada administration might be monitoring their conversations over the phone.

"I am not saying that Lacson and Estrada are the masterminds. I believe this should be looked into," Almonte said.

Premature?

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday said the Senate human rights committee's inquiry into the double-murder case was premature and should be stopped.

"This is not the time for the Senate or the legislature to get into the picture while a very serious criminal investigation is not yet even completed. It's premature," Biazon said a day after the committee, chaired by Senate Minority Leader Rene Cayetano, held its first hearing on the case.

"There is no reason for the Senate committee to continue the hearing unless there are more relevant developments in the form of additional pieces of evidence that could help the Senate perform its function of legislation," Biazon told reporters.

The inquiry is in aid of legislation.

Cayetano has no definite plans to resume the inquiry. He said it would depend on whether there were new developments in the case.

Biazon said the Senate committee should also not invite former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Estrada to the hearing "especially during this political season."

Estrada has vehemently denied any involvement in the disappearance of Dacer, who was on his way to meet Ramos at the Manila Hotel when he was abducted.

Blaming media

In Davao City, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said law enforcement agencies investigating the Dacer-Corbito murders would keep silent on the issue of masterminds until more evidence is gathered.

"Instead of engaging in speculations that might prejudice the case," he told reporters, "we are not going to make any announcement at all . . . unless we have the right evidence."

"Rest assured that as soon as we have the evidence, it will be a pleasure to identify the mastermind," he said.

Perez blamed the media for dragging Lacson into the case. He said Lacson's name was never mentioned by government investigators and officials as the mastermind.

"Panfilo Lacson has been accusing us of political persecution when in fact we never mentioned his name, when nobody mentioned his name. You mentioned his name," Perez said, pointing to the reporters who interviewed him.

Lacson has announced a plan to sue the Manila Standard for quoting sources tagging him as the mastermind.

Confirmation

For his part, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco formally acknowledged that the remains retrieved from a creek in Indang, Cavite, belonged to Dacer and Corbito.

In a press conference yesterday, Wycoco presented two metal upper dental plates found at the scene, which he said matched the victims' dental records.

He also revealed that a ring also retrieved from the creek was Corbito's.

"Corbito's family (members) . . . confirmed that their father was wearing the ring on the day of the abduction," Wycoco added.

Dr. Aida Magsipoc of the NBI Forensic Division said the thick metal ring did not melt when the corpses were burned.

The findings corroborate those of Dr. Raquel Fortun, a forensic pathologist from the University of the Philippines Manila hired by the Dacer family.

The remains and the ring had been retrieved by the UP experts from the crime scene on April 7 and were subsequently turned over to the NBI.

"Based on our examination, the dental specimens are sufficient to establish the identities of the recovered remains," Wycoco said.

Wycoco said Fortun was allowed to get debris and samples at the crime site and also to examine them "based on a mutual agreement between the NBI and the Dacer family."

In describing the crime scene, Fortun said: "The scene consisted of a dry creek bed with a bamboo grove on one side, (with charred) roots and branches."

Fortun explained that fragments of charred bones and other objects were taken from the site. "The most significant findings were two upper dental plates and one ring." *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Juliet Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac, Jerome Aning; and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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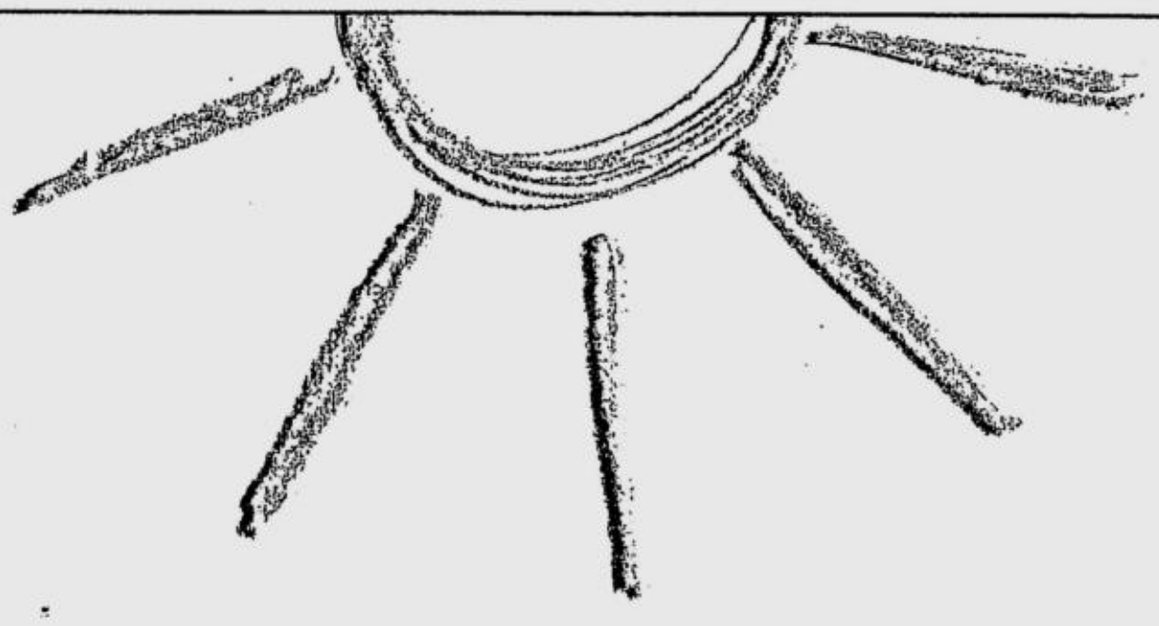

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Tañada tops 'green' poll; Enrile last

BY AGNES DONATO

FOR practicing waste segregation at home and condemning the environmentally unfriendly sport of golf, Wigberto Tañada topped a survey conducted by environmentalists on the "green" credentials of 24 senatorial candidates.

In the "green rating" survey conducted by the Earth Day Network 2001, Tañada was judged the candidate with the most concern for the environment.

Ranking next to Tañada, who obtained an approval rating of 90 percent, was Sen. Juan Flavier with 85 points.

Both were judged "certified green or environmentally committed candidates."

The 11 other candidates of the administration's People Power Coalition followed Tañada and Flavier in the rankings.

Former Environment Undersecretary Delfin Ganapin said the survey is an instrument to help voters in analyzing the candidates' environmental performance.

"We want people to know that People Power can be used not only to oust a bad president but also to restore the environment," said Ganapin, secretary general of the Earth Day Network.

Though admitting that the rating system was far from scientific, Ganapin said it was not just a measure of how concerned a candidate was for the environment.

"We also look at the integrity and personal lifestyle of the candidates because we believe that a traditional politician can cause great harm to the environment," he said.

He said a "*trapo*" (traditional politician) cannot be expected to turn down transactions and projects that are environmentally hazardous because his or her primary consideration would be the money that can be earned.

Interestingly, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who obtained only 14 points, was the only candidate placed under the "black" category, or the group deserving censure.

The environmentalists, ecologists and members of various sectoral groups who devised the survey disapproved of Enrile's alleged ownership of logging concessions which have been suspended for violations of forestry laws. *With a report from Nickson Ryan Matias*

NEWSBRIEFS

Swiss head's aid sought

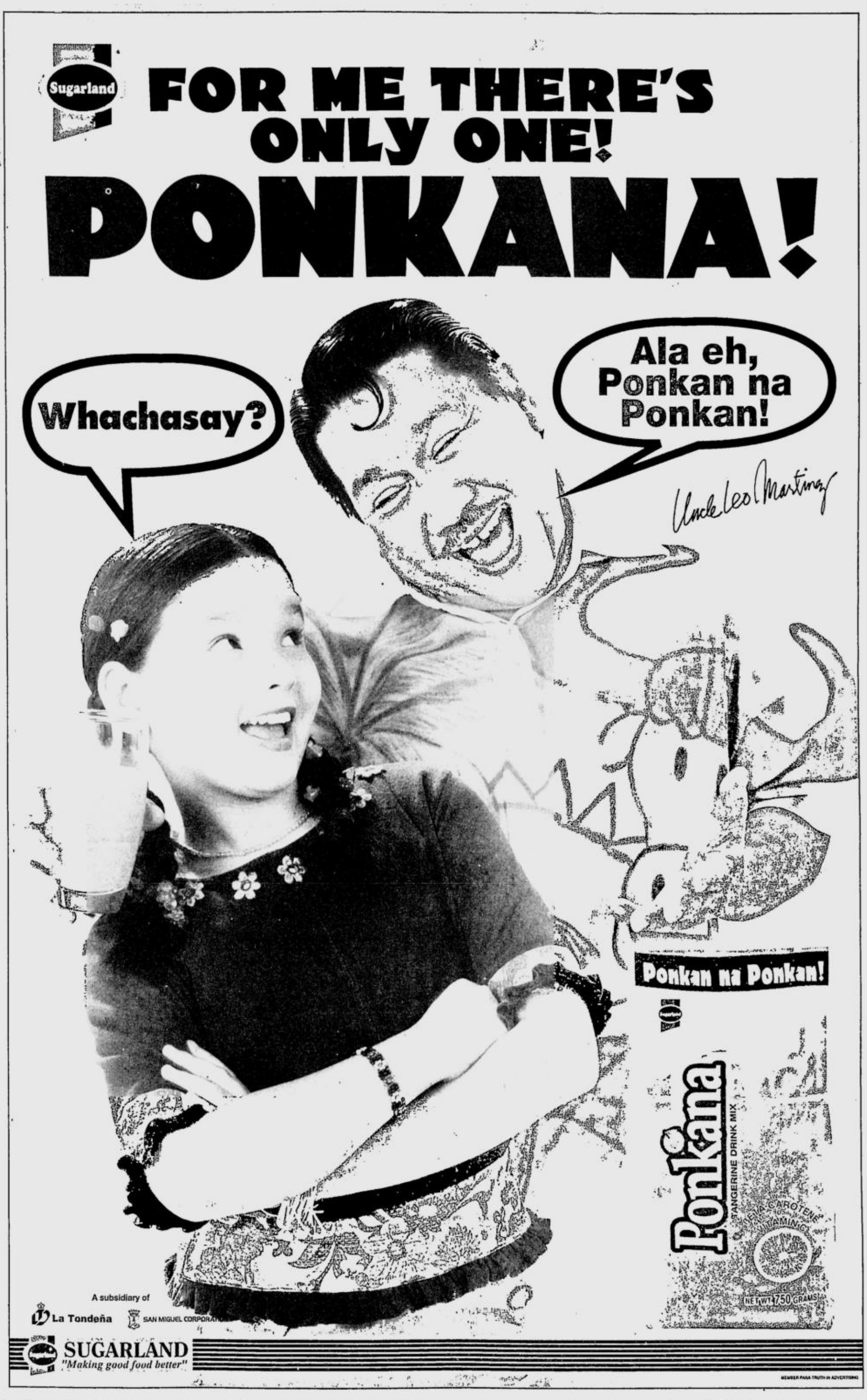
FORMER Solicitor General Francisco Chavez yesterday said he would personally ask Swiss President Moritz Leuenberger to help in the recovery of the alleged accounts of Irene Marcos-Araneta in Switzerland. Leuenberger, the Swiss lawyer who had helped the Aquino administration in trying to recover the Marcos Swiss deposits, became President of Switzerland last January. Chavez said he would ask the Swiss President, whom he described as a "professional friend," to take "expeditious action" on the recovery of the Araneta accounts under Account No. 885931 at the Union Bank of Switzerland. The accounts were said to contain $13.2 billion in June 1998. But some of the funds had already been transferred to the tax havens of Liechtenstein and the British Virgin Islands in 1999. Chavez was recently deputized by the Department of Justice to help in the recovery of the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. *Donna Cueto*

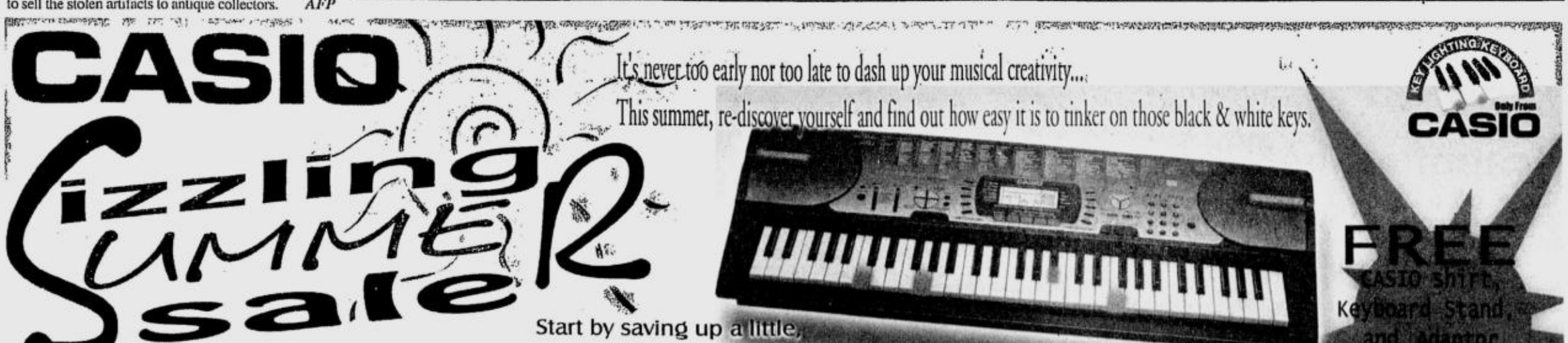
Jail exec assailed

RANKING officers of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology appealed yesterday to President Macapagal-Arroyo to look into the appointment of Chief Supt. Arturo Alit as BJMP officer in charge. The BJMP officers said Alit headed the BJMP when suspected illegal drug trafficker Yu Yuk Lai, who was supposed to be detained at the Manila City Jail, was arrested in August last year at the Holiday Inn Casino in Manila. She was escorted by three jail guards who were also arrested. Supt. Renato Gacutan, leader of the BJMP officers and men opposed to Alit's appointment, said that "if Court of Appeals Justice Demetrio Demetria was dismissed by the Supreme Court for allegedly trying to intervene for Yu Yuk Lai, the more that DILG Secretary Jose Lina Jr. should also fire Alit and the three jail guards from the service because they were directly responsible in the anomalous granting of special privileges to the arrested drug queen." The BJMP officers also called on the DILG chief to investigate and remove from the service Sr. Supt. Temistocles Jamisolamin, who was the NCR director of the bureau and concurrent warden of the Manila City Jail when the Yu Yuk Lai scandal was exposed. "If the government is sincere with its campaign against illegal drugs, it must also conduct a clean-up at the BJMP similar to the present crackdown against scalawags in the Philippine National Police," Gacutan said.

Bishops seek cops' help

ROMAN Catholic bishops yesterday asked police to track down a gang of thieves which has stolen religious relics from five churches this year. In all the incidents, the thieves broke into churches and stole monstrances, the large metal containers used to hold the communion host during Mass, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said. Some of these monstrances are made of gold and all of them are more than a century old with many dating back to the 15th century. The bishops said the items were priceless historical artifacts. In the latest incident, the thieves stole a 19th century, gold monstrance from a church in Nagcarlan, Laguna, on Easter Sunday. The priest of the stricken church, Monsignor Jose Barrion appealed to the public on information about the case particularly if there are any attempts to sell the stolen artifacts to antique collectors. *AFP*





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Vol. 16 No. 132
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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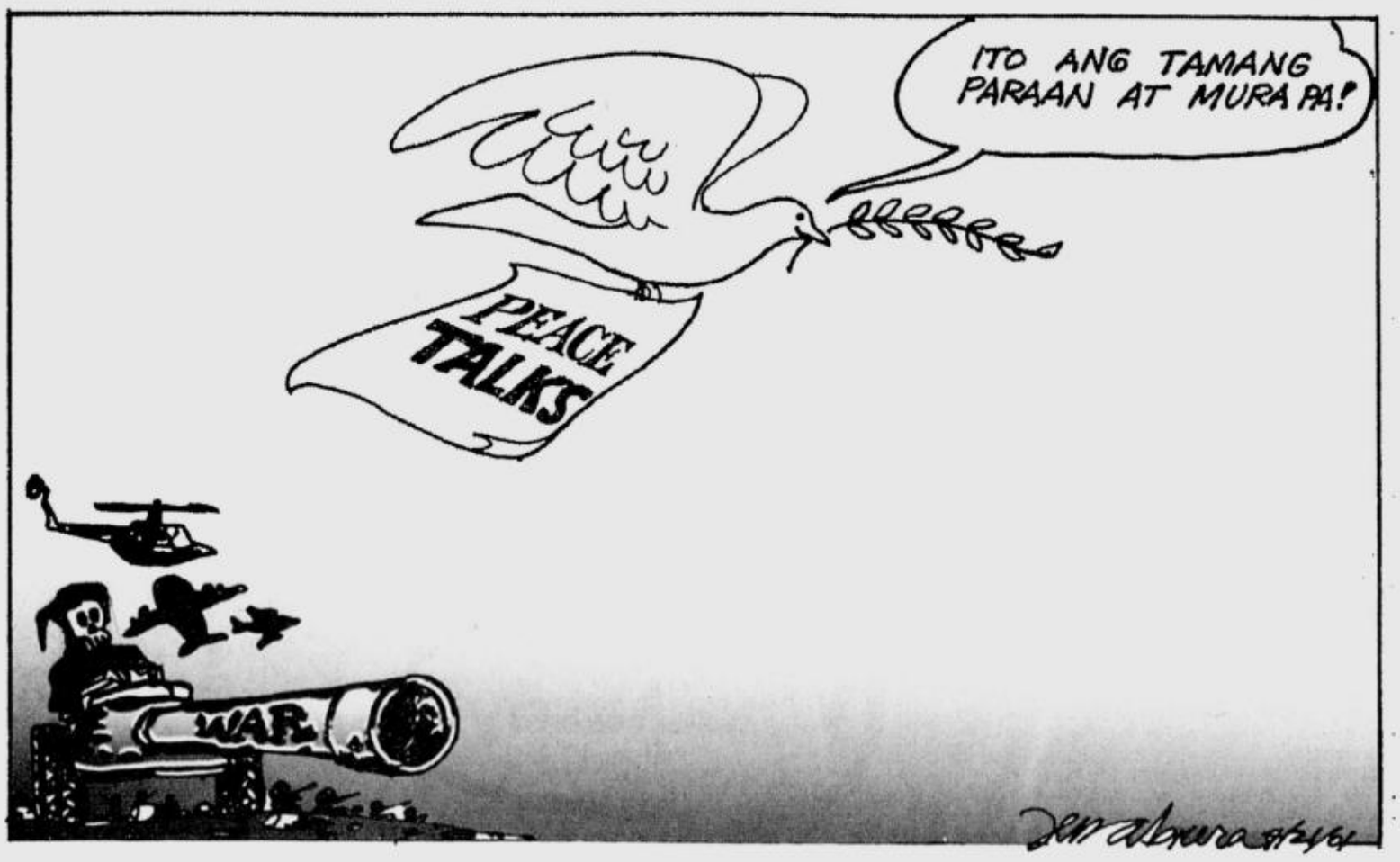


Tactical blunder

THE HOPES of the Office of the Ombudsman of securing an early arrest of deposed President Joseph Estrada, based on plunder charges, have been dashed, thanks to the bungling of government prosecutors.

In a major tactical blunder, the prosecutors this week moved for the withdrawal of five of the eight cases (including graft, perjury and criminal plunder) they had filed with the Sandiganbayan against Estrada. The reason was that they wanted to focus on the plunder charge by reincorporating the five charges they sought to withdraw into their main case, plunder. In simple terms, the prosecutors are now trying to repackage their case after finding that their evidence was thinly spread over eight or so complaints, possibly weakening the plunder charge.

EDITORIALS

This shift in tactics gave the defense an opportunity to delay the case and the Sandiganbayan justices a chance to reprimand the prosecutors for not doing their homework. The prosecutors had thought that they could get the graft court to issue an arrest warrant on the plunder charge.

This week, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto decided to withdraw the five graft cases and to file an amended complaint which he said was now near-perfect in form and substance. The Sandiganbayan will have to decide whether to grant the Ombudsman's motion to withdraw. The motion will be heard next week, meaning the arrest of Estrada will be put on hold.

In legal warfare, tactics are as important as evidence. The Ombudsman is clearly bungling the prosecution's case. What is unclear is whether the bungling is being done on purpose in order to weaken the government's case or to give the defense all the opportunities to delay the case and keep Estrada out of jail.

When Desierto changed tactics, he did what lawyers don't usually do when they engage in a legal battle. Even before he could rally his troops, he sounded a retreat, causing confusion in government ranks and puzzlement among the justices as to what the Ombudsman was really up to. The shift has revived doubts over Desierto's competence, to say the least.

The prosecutors are punching holes in their cases and, of course, the defense has been quick to exploit these weaknesses. The government is losing the first round of the battle not even on the merits but on tactical grounds.

The Ombudsman has tons of evidence uncovered during the impeachment trial or supplied after Estrada's fall from power. But the track record of the Ombudsman with the Sandiganbayan is at best spotty. It may have truckloads of evidence on the plunder and graft cases, but it is not always bulk that determines the outcome. In the P26-billion tax evasion case against Lucio Tan, for example, no one could fault the mass of documents and evidence assembled by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. But it was not the evidence or even the legal arguments that scuttled the case, it was lack of political will that killed it. The Estrada administration did not want to prosecute Tan. The BIR took the cue and dropped the case.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo says she is determined to prosecute Estrada. To protect her credibility, the plunder and graft cases against Estrada must be handled competently.

The prosecution team can't even get its act together. There's so much at stake in these cases. If they collapse because of the bungling by prosecutors, we would blow the first attempt in our judicial history to send a president to jail for wrongdoing. Desierto is talking more than he is performing in the cases against Estrada.

Gratuitous homilies

PRESIDING Justice Francis Garchitorena of the Sandiganbayan has gone out of his way not only to scold the prosecution on its waffling over the cases. At every opportunity, including in TV talk shows, Garchitorena has been emphasizing the need to do the "right thing" and to respect due process. Judges are expected to do these things. Garchitorena does not have to be very defensive or explain too much. But his contention that the Estrada cases will not be given top priority because there are hundreds of cases pending before the graft court do not wash.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. has shown the way to expedite cases with critical political ramifications. Davide sped up the proceedings of Estrada's impeachment trial and ruled decisively. He did not have to explain too much or deliver gratuitous homilies on due process.

Another censorship

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

CONGRESS has done it again. Last year, its attempt to prohibit exit polls was struck down by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional. Now it's trying again. This time its target is the election survey.

The Fair Elections Act, which was signed into law by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 12, repealed the political ad ban. That is good. But it also prohibits the election survey, and that is bad.

The ban applies 15 days immediately before the national elections and 7 days preceding the local elections.

I understand that the principal objection to the election survey is that it is mostly inaccurate and sometimes "for sale." These are not valid reasons for suppressing it.

The people are entitled to all the information bearing on the election so they can exercise their suffrage intelligently. Some of this may be true, and others may be false. In any case, it is not for the government to choose what information the voters should receive and what information it should prohibit.

During any election campaign, all manner of misinformation—or lies if you will—are fed the electorate. Most of these come from the candidates themselves and the political parties. If the purpose of the government is to protect the voters from all deception, it should also ban their speeches and propaganda as inaccurate. This would follow the logic of the survey ban.

The government cannot do this, of course, for it cannot presume to judge for the people what is true and what is not. That is for the people themselves to decide. Only when the ideas expressed are slanderous, seditious, obscene, or otherwise unlawful can the authorities step in to punish the culprits.

Election surveys cannot, by their very nature, claim 100 percent accuracy. Even with the scientific procedures they employ, there is always a reasonable margin of error. But that possibility, or even call it probability, is no reason for their total suppression on the ground of inaccuracy. Inaccuracy is not a justification for censorship.

In fact, some of the reputable survey organizations have been known to commit "whoppers" every now and then. The best known egg-in-the-face prediction was the expected landslide victory of Thomas Dewey over Harry S. Truman in the US presidential election of 1948.

Against all odds, and forecasts, Truman trounced Dewey in a remarkable upset. Especially embarrassed was the Chicago Daily Tribune, which had come out prematurely with its headline trumpeting "Dewey defeats Truman." Truman won 303 electoral votes to Dewey's 189 and 49.5 percent of the popular votes to his rival's 45.1 percent.

Only last year, two of the big news agencies in the United States announced the victory of George W. Bush over Al Gore although the results of the Florida election had not yet been finally determined. It took weeks, while the agencies stewed, before their hasty report could be validated.

At any rate, it will be remembered that election surveys were made and their results were announced up to the last minute before the US elections. No protest was made of their supposed inimical influence on the American electorate. Significantly, most of the polls correctly predicted the neck-and-neck race between Gore and Bush.

The suspicion that some surveys are manipulated to favor some candidates is no argument to prohibit all surveys. This is like throwing the baby with the bathwater. Surveys are not accepted without question by a skeptical public. If some people allow themselves to be duped by a dubious survey, the fault is with them and not the survey.

The possibility of "surveys for sale" cannot be discounted in any society with its share of scalawags. There are bound to be such surveys, and the trick is to identify them and punish its operators. Some gullible voters will be hoodwinked, but they're stupid enough to be hoodwinked in any event. Unthinking voters are no excuse for banning all surveys.

If you ban surveys because some of them are for sale, shouldn't you also ban ballots for the same reason?

Benjamin Franklin remarked that if the people misuse their right to vote, the remedy is not to deprive them of it but to teach them in its proper uses. One of the lessons the responsible voter should learn is how to distinguish between honest surveys and those that deliberately mislead.

Some unscrupulous newspapers can make their forecasts in favor of their own candidates. This is done in the form of news reports and not as supposed survey results. Even as freedom of expression covers such fabrications—and you can expect many of them in the coming days—so also should it cover all surveys, including the deceitful.

Let us not forget what Justice Holmes said, that freedom of expression is not only for the thought that agrees with us but also for the thought that we detest.

Every medium of information is intended to influence the electorate for good or evil. Posters, television and radio spots, rallies, parades, programs, speeches, and other means of communication aimed at glorifying even the most worthless candidates are protected by the Constitution. So too is the survey although, in its particular case, persuasion is not the main objective.

The main objective of the survey is to inform the people of the election trends for whatever purpose this may serve them. Every voter has the liberty to follow these trends or to try to reverse them if he sees fit. Surveys are a part of the election process in the free society and should not be outlawed on the flimsy grounds invoked by their opponents.

What Congress needs is a little more broad-mindedness and respect for the Constitution. The election survey is a democratic medium for the free flow of ideas for the better exercise of the people's suffrages. Prohibiting it is another mindless onslaught on the freedom of expression that is the bedrock of our Republic.

A debate for the Left to lose

COMMENTARY

Edel E. Garcellano

YES, "communism" has fallen apart in Moscow, and a number of Filipinos are preaching the same gospel for, in the words of INQUIRER columnist Rigoberto Tiglao, "mankind has yet to invent a better economic system than one grounded on free enterprise, which unleashes, yes, individual greed, but also their creativity." It is a take-off, I suspect, from Patricio Abinales' critique. The top honcho of the Southeast Asian Studies program at Kyoto University has propounded that "capitalism continues to be both a progressive economic system because of expansive dynamism, as well as a destructive phenomenon."

In view of the forthcoming peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front, Tiglao proposes "a national debate," simply for the reason that for three decades, Filipinos have been "dissecting the evils of mainstream society. It is time though to dissect the weaknesses of the alternative." Which is actually saying that a no-holds-barred declassification of political and military secrets is in order, and that everyone should be given a clean slate on which to plan the goals and praxiology for liberation.

Tiglao's recommendation, though seemingly commonsensical, in fact formally logical, just falls short of being crassly naive. Certainly, there is so much arcana surrounding the movement, so-called, but to axiomize that such a debate would educate by-standers and rabid anti-communists, even among splinter groups, presupposes an unmediated ideological transparency of discourses (reminiscent of Habermas' associative exchange), as though the observer can be reduced to a tabula rasa excised of his/her psychological fix on alleged Marxist orthodoxy and inflexibility.

Bertrand Russell's text on Socrates is instructive of the persistent memory of Ahos orthodoxy. Brought before the Athenean court to explain his corruption of the youth, Socrates had to face not only his informal accusers but also the judges who, ever since they were children, "[had] gone about telling of one Socrates, a wise man, who speculated about the heavens above, and searched into the earth beneath....Such men...are supposed not to believe in the existence of the gods."

And who would speak for the various spectrums of the Left?

Those whose discourses complement the state's neo-liberal and parliamentarist gradualism would be more than willing to pick up the phone. But the others would be hard put, for anyone advocating a "radical" position (for instance, the so-called re-affirmists) would be prey to the surveillance apparatus of the state, the military, even the so-called civil society whose embrace of capitalism makes it suspicious of potential union organizers, dissenters and the like.

To insist on an open debate is to presume a parity of forces in a de-contextualized scenario. If such were to happen, it would be as though a level playing field had been achieved. Can the media, therefore, even entertain the idea of having NDF personalities as daily columnists so as to enable the marginalized to compete fairly in the marketplace where bourgeois reformers and conservatives rule broadcast and print media? It is also as though, while the debate rages on, the academe, the security institutions, foreign interests, the Church, even Malacañang, would be spared the crimes against humanity that the subsequent white-hot exchange would surely implicate.

Even the academe, the factory of hegemonic ideals that has been leery on the whole of left-wing articulations, would not be left unscathed in the theoretical and documentary crossfire. Moreover, will the status quo allow the exposure of its hidden closets of infamy and constitutional betrayal?

In short, is the country "capable of a debate on dialectics, as what happened," according to George Novack, on "Nov. 7, 1961, when 6,000 people gathered in a parish auditorium to listen to a debate on dialectics by four noted French scholars (Jean-Paul Sartre, among others)," which "meeting would be as unlikely in New York as the outdoor recitals poets give before large crowds in Moscow"?

I am not even pointing at the University of the Philippines, radical as it may seem, where you can count on your fingers the academics who would be interested in such, much less the market-oriented "Debate with Mare at Pare" or "Isyu 101," where ignorance is the rule rather than the exception. We are talking of the hegemonic practice wherein local debates, centered on pragmatism, instrumentalism and organizational lapses, are usually mistaken, nay, pounced upon, for theoretical dead-ends—this in consonance with the well-kept secret that, inside and outside the academe, reactionary hustlers, with power to boot, have disguised themselves as liberals and post-modernists.

The pedagogic advocacy of debating an issue is usually well-intentioned and desired. But how would the psycho-ideological fix on reflex anti-communism be surmounted in view of the paradigmatic claim of Dean Jorge Bocobo, who best summed up the mainstream position when he wrote that "what really works is what really matters"?

Adding one's diatribe against the subversive group because "their loud and ironic claim for the very masses whose lives and futures they obliterated in the name of fanatical ideology" is virtually a walk in the park. But declaring a partisan symmetry with the same group is like raising a clenched fist inside a military camp.

Tiglao's subliminal argument is no better than Fukuyama's generalization that the end of history is the triumphalist affirmation of capitalism, and, extending it, monopoly capitalism that presumes to disperse capital, in the historicist stage, rationally and progressively the world over.

Edel E. Garcellano is with the Department of English and Comparative Literature of the University of the Philippines.

PR nightmare for Ping

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

OVER THE MONTHS, police authorities have cracked their heads in an effort to solve the disappearance of PR man Bubby Dacer and his driver Manuel Corbito, but the case seemed to lead nowhere. Suddenly, however, in the last two weeks the murdered men's remains as well as the elements of the Presidential Anti Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) who had directly participated in their murder have been positively identified. All that remains to be divulged is the identity of the mastermind.

The double-murder case has erupted right in the middle of the campaign period and nothing could be worse for former PNP and PAOCTF chief Panfilo Lacson. It's a PR nightmare for him. For though the authorities have yet to link him and deposed President Estrada directly to the Dacer case, the involvement of PAOCTF officers and men cannot but be laid at his doorstep. As Star's Teddy Benigno put it, Lacson once thought the PAOCTF would catapult him to the presidency in 2004, but now his career and his senatorial campaign are in a shambles.

* * *

Independent candidate Noli de Castro wrote in response to the challenge raised here by Fr. Raul Enriquez, vice chair of the militant priests' organization Gomburza and parish priest of Sariaya, Quezon. Father Enriquez had lamented that De Castro's top-seeded program, "Magandang Gabi Bayan," interviewed so many witnesses over four days in August last year, regarding the rampant drug smuggling and trafficking in Quezon but after months of delay and much prodding from militant elements, what was shown was a sanitized and toothless report. This interviews were triggered by the celebrated seizure by military elements of some 365 kilos of shabu.

I opined that Father Enriquez's accusation gave rise to suspicions that De Castro was either paid not to show the interviews or he was scared. In response, De Castro sent me a videotape of that "MGB" show and press statements appearing earlier this year, wherein he asserted that the residents were unwilling to talk on camera and that the testimonies obtained were mostly hearsay. "MGB," he asserted, "does not air half-baked stories."

Maybe the rival GMA Network would want to do an in-depth story about the rampant smuggling in Quezon?

* * *

Father Enriquez, 37, a militant diocesan priest who is active in environmental issues and the anti-drug campaign, later spoke to the media and disputed De Castro's claim that the interviews were mere hearsay. He asserted that the people who talked to the visiting media team were direct witnesses who had run for protection to Father Enriquez himself, and that some of them showed a Rolex watch seized from the smugglers which could also be used as a cell phone.

Father Enriquez said the episode being covered by the "MGB" team involved the biggest buy-bust operation in the country, with the shabu seized valued at P1.5 billion, or double that amount after the addition of other chemical elements. The priest pointed out that it was also the first time that a drug bust was undertaken by villagers themselves, and that it successfully landed a Taiwanese, Raymond Tan, in jail. And De Castro says there is no story? "*Meron bang tumawag kay* Noli *at tinakot siya o binayaran siya*?" the priest asked. He added that the famed broadcaster should answer this issue satisfactorily, "lest the impression that he is 'Kabayad Noli' stick to him."

Father Enriquez is challenging the senatorial candidate to show on the air the raw unedited tapes of the interviews in fairness to those who came forward to talk. It is also a way to protect these people, he asserted.

* * *

Father Enriquez, a native of the Banahaw area who speaks with a thick accent, confessed that at first when parents began bringing to him their children who had a drug problem, he would pray over them. He said students in Grade 6 or first year high school are lured by the drug pushers to try shabu for P10 per *tikim*. After taking the drug six or seven times, the kids are hooked for good and eventually some of them end up raping and killing.

Father Enriquez soon realized that much more has to be done to lick this menace. The shocking thing is that these illegal drugs are openly sold in seemingly harmless places, including some church premises.

* * *

Father Enriquez said this evil permeates our society from top to bottom, including some big names "that would shock you." It's a whole culture, he said, and how do you fight that?

The drugs are being smuggled from China or Hong Kong through various coastal towns such as those of Quezon and the operation involves foreign nationals and local businessmen, police and politicians, Father Enriquez said. Many foreign drug dealers use innocuous fronts such as orchid and flower gardens, refilling stations, resorts and restaurants.

Intelligence sources said the drug trade is also being conducted in some plush nightclubs and hotels. The country has also become a trans-shipment point to other countries. "Open *na* open *tayo*," the priest noted.

Father Enriquez is appealing to President Macapagal and the Church to join in the crusade pitting "God Lord vs. Drug Lord." While he lauds the abolition of the PAOCTF, he advocates the creation of a "superbody" to combat this menace. He prays that one day he can meet with the President to talk about it.

* * *

Painter Lee Aguinaldo is in another kind of problem. Once the darling of Manila's 400 because of his enormous talent and his being the scion of one of Manila's wealthiest families, Lee disappeared from society. Recently he came out again, a very sick man badly in need of a second heart bypass at the Makati Medical Center. Lee, who is now 67, claims that many paintings had been taken from him by some society figures who never returned or paid for them. He is appealing to these people to return his paintings as he needs to convert them into cash for his operation.

* * *

In the mid-1970s socialite Chito Madrigal drove him out of the Patio Madrigal house on Roxas Boulevard because he was unable to pay rentals amounting to P50,000. He says the appliances that Madrigal seized from him should have been enough to pay for his debts, but then he alleged that she also took in the middle of the night five paintings of his which should now cost quite a lot of money. He is now begging for their return.

Lee sought the help of mutual friends, such as Larry Henares and Johnny Litton, to help convince Madrigal, to no avail. Perhaps Jamby Madrigal, a nice young lady who is running for senator under the Puwersa ng Masa, can talk to her aunt and help Lee out of pure concern for another human being in need. It's good to remember that the Lord cannot be outdone in generosity, especially if it's for the needy.

On the campaign trail

YOUNGBLOOD

Dona C. Talabong

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

AFTER ALMOST four years of working in environmentally challenged Manila and with hardly any savings to show for it, I decided to return to my hometown which I missed so much, the peaceful, clean and refreshing Lucban, Quezon.

Coming back was the best decision I made in a long time. I immediately landed a job in the provincial capital, Lucena City, only an hour away by jeepney. And there, barely a year later, I met the man whom I would eventually marry.

When I met him and he started courting me, my officemates who were all from Lucena made a big deal about the fact that his father was a *bukal* or member of the provincial board of Quezon. I had no idea of what they were so excited about. At that time, I was apathetic and clueless about local politics, after living in Manila for more than seven years.

It turned out that my future husband's father was indeed quite popular all over the province. He had been elected thrice as member of the provincial board and he was very vocal about his views and active on many issues affecting our province.

When I finally met him, my first impression was that he was a kind and gentle *lolo* because he was clutching the hand of one of his grandsons. His hair was all white and he had the physique of Santa Claus. When he was with his family, he was very soft-spoken and accommodating.

It was when my boyfriend and I were planning our wedding that I suddenly realized I was entering a different territory. I was not only marrying a kind and handsome man called Boyet, I was also marrying politics! This lesson was brought home to me when Boyet announced "our" choices of principal sponsors for the wedding: two congressmen, the PNP chief, the city mayor, the vice governor and a city councilor, two provincial engineers, two judges and other VIPs. This was big-time politics, at least in the province, but our wedding went through smoothly.

My husband and I decided to stay with his family. During our first few dinners together, I was completely speechless because all they seemed to talk about was local politics. It was only after meals that would I understand what they were talking about. In the confines of our bedroom, my husband would patiently tell me the stories about the governor and this and that mayor. It was like having a tutorial on local politics.

Until now, I dare not speak during family discussions on politics. I still know virtually nothing although my husband is considered the family's "think tank."

When 1998 began, the atmosphere in our house became charged with excitement as my father-in-law was running for vice governor. At first, I was only a distant observer. But in April, my husband suggested that I might enjoy taking a more active part in the campaign. My sister-in-law headed a group that was conducting a house-to-house campaign in all the 40 towns of our province, composed of pretty ladies (their cousins and friends) distributing campaign materials called *pulyetos*. I expressed my readiness to help.

The next morning, I was up at 5 a.m. and dressed in what I believed to be the most appropriate attire: a nice feminine blouse, cream slacks and a pair of sandals. When I went down the house, everyone was laughing at me. All of them were wearing baggy T-shirts, jeans and rubber shoes, accented with caps on their heads.

I promptly changed my clothes and off we went on my first campaign sortie. After the first day, my legs and feet were sore and my butt was aching.

An old mini-bus (read: *bulok*) owned and driven by my brother-in-law took us on the campaign trail. Its seats were made of wood without any cushions and the roof had so many holes that we had to use umbrellas inside when it rained hard.

Upon arriving at our destination, we split into small teams and went from house to house to ask people to vote for my father-in-law.

There were times when we came upon people drinking *lambanog* in a street corner and they would offer us a drink or *tagay*. Eager to please, we obliged.

We would shake everyone's hands, even the dirtiest hands in the fish market. No alcohol was allowed because the sight of us using alcohol after shaking people's hands would be offensive and insulting to the voters.

Some people would not come to the door even if their dogs were barking like crazy. Others would ask for money, which we did not have. All we could afford to give them were Maxx candies and our sweet smiles. Only a few asked us what the social and political program and priorities of our candidate were.

I joined the house-to-house campaign for three weeks, and we had many colorful experiences. One time we were chased by what looked like a mad dog. There were times when some guys would ask if they could kiss us, a request that was politely rejected, of course. We were also asked to sing or dance. We had flat tires in the middle of nowhere in Bondoc Peninsula, which is known as insurgent country. We witnessed brawls. We got lost in a strange town. But the nicest experience was being welcomed into the homes of strangers and being offered snacks.

Two weeks before the campaign ended, I joined another group of campaigners which was assigned to handle political meetings. We rode a passenger jeepney full of *pulutan*, juice and gin. During those meetings, some supporters would speak about my father-in-law's program while others would tell jokes. During intermissions, I would sing a couple of songs. I sang a Tagalog campaign jingle to the tune of "Cabaret," and followed it up with the theme from "Titanic" which was very popular then. Maybe because the people in the meetings were already drunk when I sang, I was never booed even if I couldn't hit the high notes of that song by Celine Dion.

After the 45-day campaign, it was election day. The members of the family went together to our voting precincts to vote. Immediately thereafter, we were on our way again, going from precinct to precinct and town to town to observe the progress of the elections.

We could not sleep for the next two days as the election returns started to come in. The first day after the polls, the partial results showed my father-in-law trailing in second place. It was the same on the second day but we remained optimistic about the final results. Then on the third day my father-in-law overtook his toughest rival. He never relinquished the lead until the complete returns were in. The final tally had him getting 20,000 votes more than his closest opponent.

On the day he was proclaimed as the vice governor-elect, we were all so ecstatic that we celebrated all night despite our baggy eyes and tired bodies. All our hard work had paid off. But I believed that our campaign made only a small contribution to my father-in-law's victory. He was really the best, brightest and most honest and hard-working of the lot, and the people of Quezon knew that.

It is now 2001. Another election is just around the corner. The walls are covered with posters of good-looking candidates (the wonder of the camera and the computer never ceases to amaze me), motorcades are being held every other day, banners of greetings from congressman this and governor that are hanging from buildings and strung across the streets. My father-in-law is seeking a reelection, and we are on the campaign trail again.

Now I know what is expected of me as the daughter-in-law of the vice governor. I am again singing our old campaign song, but instead of the theme from "Titanic" I have mastered Mae Rivera's "Aray."

Dona C. Talabong is in her late 20s

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

One hundred years of law

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AT THE TURN of the century (1901), a young American lawyer by the name of Oscar Sutro arrived in Manila to open a law firm with a compatriot, E.S. Pillsbury. The new firm, Pillsbury and Sutro, was affiliated with the San Francisco law firm of Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro, where Pillsbury and Oscar's older brother Alfred were partners. A year later, the firm took on another young lawyer, William Hamilton Lawrence, as a partner and took on a new name: Pillsbury, Sutro and Lawrence.

Among the firm's earliest cases was one that stemmed from a libel suit that Insular Architect (perhaps equivalent to Public Works Secretary today) Martin Bourne threatened to file against four Manila-based contractors. The contractors charged Martin with "incompetence and unfair treatment" in a letter published in the "American." Retaining the young lawyers, the contractors filed suit in turn against Bourne.

Though the dispute, "which had absorbed the attention of the community for several weeks," ultimately ended in a dismissal, I highlight it because the law firm that was born from Pillsbury, Sutro and Lawrence is best known to us at the INQUIRER as the law firm that defends us when we displease people we write about and end up being sued for libel.

The law firm known today as Ortega, Del Castillo, Bacorro, Odulio, Calma and Carbonell celebrates its centennial this year. It marks this auspicious occasion tomorrow in a fittingly tony manner: with the Ewald Selph Cup at the Manila Polo Club followed by cocktails.

* * *

THAT the firm evolved from an overseas affiliate manned by American lawyers in their 20s, to a respected institution now fully Filipino-owned, says much about the development of the legal profession in these islands.

The firm's name has changed several times over the years, as partners have come and gone. But for much of its history, it was known as Ross, Selph (for whom the polo cup is named) and Carrascoso, and as Bito, Lozada, Ortega and Castillo. It became Ortega, Del Castillo, Bacorro, Odulio, Calma and Carbonell in 1992.

All partners of the firm were Americans until 1936, when the first Filipino partner, Antonio T. Carrascoso Jr., was admitted. Lending it even more prestige is the fact that the firm employed a number of young lawyers who eventually became respected names in the legal profession and in government. Among them were Ricardo Paras, who was chief justice of the Supreme Court from 1951-1961, the late Ambassador Amelito Mutuc, and no less than the late President Diosdado Macapagal, father of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. For many years, the firm was headed by Jesus Bito.

We at the INQUIRER, though, know of the firm mainly through its partner Tom del Castillo, who handles our libel cases. Compared to the record set by some fellow columnists and predecessors, I haven't had to deal so often with Tom on an official basis. But I think it's a tribute to his skill (and patience with stubborn journalists) that so far (cross our fingers) no INQUIRER columnist or reporter has gone to jail for libel. Which is why we all wish Tom, a most amiable fellow and a good friend, and all the partners and employees of Ortega, Del Castillo, congratulations on this milestone.

* * *

FOR SIX years now, the Clean and Green Foundation, together with GMA-7, have collaborated on the production and airing of an annual concert designed to raise public awareness about the environment, specifically the need to revive and restore the lost glory of the Pasig River.

Called "Muling Aawit ang Pasig," the annual concert series has been staged in venues as varied as the Malacañang Palace grounds, the Metropolitan Museum and the Cultural Center. This year, the concert venue was the PICC Reception Hall, though upon entering, concert-goers could not have been blamed if they thought they had wandered into Payatas instead.

The stage was a dump, literally. Amid the torn cartons, plastic bags, crates, cans and old newspapers was an actual payloader, deployed to lend dramatic effect at some point. And when the show opened, the dancers came out dressed not in fancy costumes but in the torn and faded rags of trash-pickers. Even the stars of the show: the Apo Hiking Society, Jaya and Lani Misalucha, strolled onstage in recycled garb, in *katsa* suits and patchwork gowns that seemed to have been sewn together from remnants. Indeed, part of the concert was a mini-fashion show of "recycled couture," from such unusual materials as paper, styrofoam, metal screens and wires.

* * *

EVEN if clad in "basura chic," though, the concert stars could not conceal their outsized talents. The Apo, whose participation was described as "long overdue" since one of its members, Jim Paredes has been a Clean & Green trustee from the start, won the audience over with their mix of old familiar tunes and socially meaningful songs.

But it was Jaya and Lani, together with Three of a Kind, who blew the audience away. The two divas were especially effective—and amusing—in a portion on the "jukebox queens," performing local pop hits with heavy sexual innuendo, the likes of "Ibigay Mo Na" and "Aray," complete with sultry gestures and sensual moves.

What made this year's concert, with the theme "Biyaheng Pasig-Payatas," really special, was that it wasn't just a hodge-podge of show-stopping production numbers. Unifying it were the reflections of a young man on the move, commuting through the city and asking questions about people's roles in the protection and destruction of the environment.

At the concert's close, Clean & Green chair, former First Lady Ming Ramos (First Gentleman Mike Arroyo is co-chair), paid special tribute to Floy Quintos, who has directed the "Muling Aawit ang Pasig" concerts since the start. And to go by this year's production, Quintos deserves every bit of the accolades paid him. The concert airs tonight over Channel 7.

Shenanigans on the cultural scene

(Conclusion)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(THIS is the continuation of the letter of Dean Rosa Vallejo in defense of Carmen Padilla and Dr. Jaime Laya's response, which should give readers an idea of the intrigues and foibles in government. The NCCA case reminds me of "Friday the 13th Part 6." Just when you thought Jason had finally died, here comes another sequence.)

(Laya: The PCAGC recommended and the Office of the President approved that Mrs. Padilla be placed on a three-month preventive suspension, attesting to the seriousness of the case.)

Vallejo: Despite being cleared of all the charges initiated by Mr. Laya, Mrs. Padilla was not reinstated by the Office of the President. Then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora refused to reinstate her.

(Laya: The PCAGC did not clear Mrs. Padilla. The case was still under investigation when her replacement was appointed. As an administrative investigation, the ultimate penalty would have been dismissal from government. The PCAGC decided to archive the case as being moot and academic when Mrs. Padilla was replaced. The case before the Ombudsman was filed by the National Archives, not the NCCA, in connection with Mrs. Padilla's violation of Spanish law when she clandestinely brought the documents out of Spain. The case was dismissed for lack of evidence, although Spanish authorities still consider the case open.)

Vallejo: It is thereby apparent that a grave injustice has been brought upon Mrs. Padilla. Now that the Philippines has a new government that takes as a serious priority the eradication of graft and corruption and immorality in government, reinstating Mrs. Padilla will give a clear signal to the Civil Service that merit and performance are the primary criteria for holding office and not the midnight politicking that characterized the past administration. I therefore recommend her reinstatement in the interest of justice and fair play.

Mrs. Padilla's reinstatement will undoubtedly help the NCCA regain its tarnished reputation that has hindered its performance of its legal mandate to "develop, promote and preserve Filipino culture and art."

(Laya: In all my years in government service, I have never encountered anyone like Mrs. Padilla. It is a long and difficult story, but if desired, I would be willing to recount details of my experience in the first two years of my NCCA chairmanship when Mrs. Padilla headed the secretariat. Furthermore, the transparency and truthfulness expected of a public servant is regretfully wanting in Mrs. Padilla and the present case.

(First, the return of Mrs. Padilla to the government service is *sub judice*. There is an ongoing *quo warranto* case for Mrs. Padilla's return to the NCCA. The undersigned is being defended by the Solicitor General while Mrs. Padilla's lawyer is former Sen. Rene Saguisag.

(Second, it seems clear that Mrs. Padilla committed perjury. Mrs. Padilla justified the purchase of the "original Katipunan documents" by telling the NCCA Board, among other things, that included therein is the original signed Retraction of Dr. Jose Rizal, while the Manila Archdiocesan Archives has an unsigned copy. At the PCAGC hearing, Mrs. Padilla swore to the opposite, i.e., that she had told the Board that the Archdiocesan Archives has the original and that only a copy was to be purchased. The tapes and the transcripts of both proceedings are being separately transmitted.

(Third, Mrs. Vallejo alleges the "tarnished reputation" of the NCCA. With all due respect, the present NCCA with announced policies and priorities, explicit priorities and programs, system of competitive grants, is in dramatic contrast to the old *ad hoc* grants evaluation process where Committee members used to be able to apply for, evaluate, approve and then automatically receive funding for their own projects. There are disgruntled elements, to be sure but the Office of the President may wish to verify the real situation from board members, including the heads of cultural agencies, the secretariat staff and artists and cultural workers who have no axes to grind.

(Finally, it appears that not all concerned are aware of, or choose to ignore, the system for electing the NCCA chairman. A private sector representative, of which I am one, has to be elected Committee Head, and then SubCommission Head before becoming a board member and thus eligible for the chairmanship. The chairman is elected for terms of three [3] years.)

Let's see what comes out of this little contretemps. But you must admit *nakakapagod*. According to a source, former Sen. Leticia Ramos Shahani would make the best chair for the NCCA because she authored the bill creating the agency. Aside from the fact that former Senators Ed Angara and Sonny Alvarez were co-authors, following that line of reasoning, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile should be the CCP chair and Angara the director of the National Museum, both having authored the relevant bills. As for Padilla, she ought to realize that she's out of her league.

Overseas Filipinos shackled by ignorance

THIS is my comment on your editorial last March 29. Like you, we also hope that people working overseas will, three years from now, be able to vote.

True, our overseas people may not be influenced by guns, goons and gold. But they have another thing that will shackle them, and that is ignorance. They are still inadequately enlightened about issues. Poverty has put shackles in their minds.

I worked as a volunteer missionary for three years in Taiwan from 1997 to 2000. The working conditions for many of our countrymen are just miserable and oppressive. The Church has tried to help them but it was very difficult to inculcate the right values in them.

Before the presidential elections of 1998, a survey was taken on their preferences. Joseph Estrada won by a big margin.

When the economic turmoil gripped the Philippines and they were asked what they thought about the Estrada administration, many answered: "*Mabuti nga si* Erap *at nakapag*-abroad *kami*" or "*Gusto ko si* Erap, *mataas ang palit ng* dollar." Of course, there were some who were more aware of the issues, but they didn't make up the majority.

We want overseas Filipinos to vote, but we want them to vote wisely.—**CONCEPCION B. BANAAG, Unit 7, San Juan Town Homes, 140 Argonne cor. Hoover Streets, San Juan, Metro Manila**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time of heroic teachers

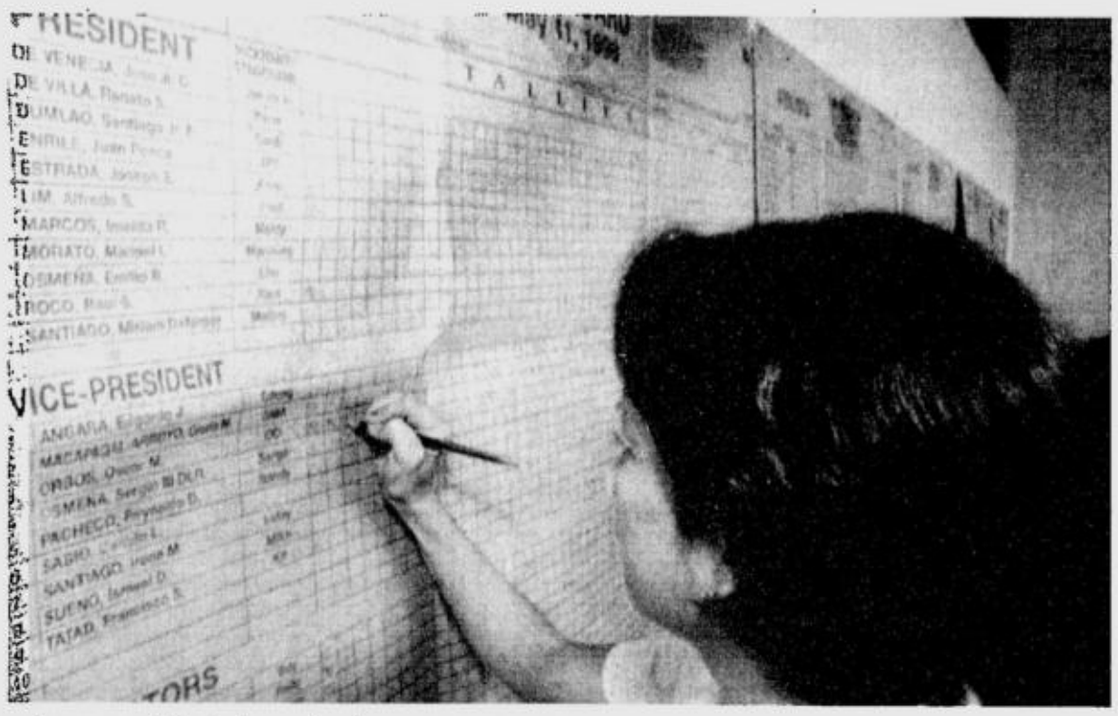
ONCE again, the teachers—whom Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" S. Aquino Jr. called the "collective conscience of the nation"—will assume and perform a delicate duty: to serve as chairpersons and members of the board of election inspectors (BEIs) in the May 14 polls.

This early, the teachers are already being subjected to some unfounded attacks and criticism from some sectors. Ugly rumors have been spread that certain teachers' organizations have become willing tools of politicians who want to make a mockery of the electoral process.

While it is true that there have been teachers who allowed themselves to be manipulated by unscrupulous candidates and their leaders, their number is only a drop in the bucket, so to speak. By and large, the more than 500,000 public school teachers who man about 250,000 election precincts are honest, dedicated and hardworking public servants who risk their lives and limbs in a sincere and determined effort to preserve the sanctity of the ballot.

In this regard, there are cases which are too recent to be forgotten. Filomena Tatlonghari, a teacher of Batangas, was gunned down as she protected with her body the ballot box which some heavily armed men tried to snatch from her. Unfortunately, the perpetrators of the crime have not been meted the corresponding penalty up to this time.

Likewise, 18 teachers of the Tatalon Elementary School in Quezon City were caught in the crossfire between warring political factions in barangay elections. Although many years have passed, the defeated parties filed protests against the winners even as they accused the teachers of malice and bias in favor of the poll victors. Despite pieces of documentary evidence and affidavits supporting their innocence, the case has dragged on and on.



Worse, the Commission on Elections which hires and deputizes the teachers in electoral exercises, is acting as the prosecutor instead of the protector of the harassed teachers. It was the Quezon City Public School Teachers Association (QCPSTA) that came to the rescue of the 18 Tatalon teachers who were being apprehended because of their failure to post bail for their provisional liberty pending the resolution of the case.

The QCPSTA cannot forget the incident on Feb. 2, 1998 when then Comelec Chair Bernardo Pardo gave the pleading teachers and QCPSTA officers a really shabby treatment.

Aside from Tatlonghari who was killed by hired assassins out to thwart the will of the electorate, there were other school officials and teachers who were gunned down in the heat of political exercises. Among these were Lucena City Schools Division Superintendent Uldarico Viray; Jose Geromo, former president of the Zamboanga del Sur Public School Teachers Association; and Napoleon Pineda, former president of the Angeles City Public School Teachers Association.

What has the Comelec done for these victims and their respective families? Practically nothing, despite the fact that it is the Comelec which places the teachers' lives on the line by assigning them to election precincts during elections.

Likewise, the Comelec failed to give necessary protection to teachers who put up a courageous stand against those with evil designs to subvert the people's will. In this regard, the people perhaps still remember the teachers of San Fernando (Pampanga), Makati, Mandaluyong, Bicol and Tarlac who were intimidated, harassed and threatened by power-hungry politicians and their leaders because these teachers refused to soil their hands by participating in dirty electoral tricks.

What can they expect? Will they receive the remuneration due them on time? Will the Comelec protect them from evil forces? Will there be additions to the statistic of teachers who have fallen in the service of democratic processes?—**EUSEBIO S. SAN DIEGO, president, National Organization of Professional Teachers Inc.-National Capital Region, Sangay ng mga Paaralang Lungsod, Quezon City**

The fisher folk of Ithan

I AM a student of Miriam College and an avid reader of your paper. I want to share my experience during our visit to Barangay Ithan in Binangonan, Rizal last Feb. 24-26, 2001 as part of our lesson in Theology of Liberation.

Fisher folk inhabit the place. During our three-day stay, our foster parents whom we called "*tatay*" and "*nanay*" took us into their homes. We had "ready-made" younger brothers and sisters, too.

The people were warm and very accommodating. They were ready to give a smile to anyone who came their way. They were friendly and very generous.

But behind the sweet smiles, there was an unexplainable sadness in their eyes. These people suffer a lot. They have to fish early in the morning so that they will have something to eat or sell for the day. The sting of poverty could not be hidden from them—or from us.

How many of us live in the comforts of our air-conditioned rooms unmindful of their plight? While many of us live lives of luxury and comfort, the fisher folk of Ithan continue to struggle each day. I was in tears and my heart broke when I saw their pitiful lives.

I am calling on the government to help the fisher folk living in depressed areas like Ithan, Binangonan. Give them a chance to live better lives by giving them rights over the water areas. In granting this, they would be able to build fish pens that will become their major source of income. I also would like to suggest that prices of goods be decreased because they cannot afford to buy things at the current prices for their basic needs. Please hear their cry.—**KATHLEEN JOYCE F. CARLOS, 20 Picador St., Midtown Subd., Phase 1, San Roque, Marikina City**

Tenure of CES eligibles remains unsettled

WE wish to make some clarifications regarding the column written by Neal H. Cruz about Ramon V. Señeres last March 16.

It is true that on Jan. 15, 2001, the Career Executive Service Board recommended to the Office of the President Seneres' appointment to a CES rank. At present, his rank appointment is still pending with that office. Whether or not he will be appointed is the prerogative of the President.

It is also true that we answered his query as to whether a CES eligible like him is not required to tender a courtesy resignation when a new administration assumes office. In our reply, we said that he could invoke the Court of Appeals' decision in the case of Santos vs Cuevas.

But that was not the only thing we stated in our letter. In fact, we started with the statement that we could not answer his query in very clear terms, because there were two conflicting decisions of the Court of Appeals on petitions for quo warranto filed by a Career Executive Service Officer (Ceso) and a CES eligible some time in 1998, not to mention a motion for reconsideration in another case currently pending before the Supreme Court.

In addition, we pointed out that under Civil Service Commission Memorandum Circular No. 18, s. 1992, only Cesos are guaranteed security of tenure. CES eligibles like Señeres are not mentioned under MC 18 and therefore they are not covered by the guarantee.

In view of the foregoing, we feel that there is yet no clear-cut or well-settled rule in resolving the issue of whether or not a CES eligible enjoys security of tenure. This was the reason we had to tell Señeres at the start of our letter that we could not answer his query categorically. Instead we suggested that he use the Santos case as a guide together with MC 18 in plotting his next moves.—**NORMITA L. VILLANUEVA, executive director, Career Executive Service Board, 3 Marcelino St., Holy Spirit Drive, Quezon City**

Candidate denies having private army

IN A NEWS report last March 19, 2001, I was mentioned as among those on the list of candidates with private armies.

I strongly deny this. Records of the provincial command of the Philippine National Police in Bulacan will show that I do not have any armed groups for security purposes. My constituents can prove the veracity of my statement.

Furthermore, I am a member of the Couples for Christ and Marriage Encounter and thus there is no need to stress my abhorrence of violence.

A story such as this puts my person as well as my constituency under a cloud.—**REP. WILHELMINO M. SY-ALVARADO, First District, Bulacan**

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Rights cannot be absolute

CONRADO de Quiros was quite intense in his defense of the right of free expression (PDI, 4/4/01) in connection with the controversial sex movie "Live Show" as dissented with the views of Amando Doronila and multi-awarded movie director Marilou Diaz-Abaya.

I do not agree with the arguments of De Quiros, but since the subject is about human rights I would like to add some thoughts about how some of those rights can be twisted by a privileged few, hurting the greater majority of the people. Yes, I have seen the movie, so I know whereof I speak.

Not too long ago, someone in the United States, an atheist, protested before the US Supreme Court that the word "God" should not be mentioned in schools because it violated the constitutional right of a person who did not believe in God. To protect that right, the mention or use of the word was banned in US public schools. That is religious freedom working in reverse, if you ask me.

Recently, CBS was forced to discontinue the television program "Touched by an Angel" because it used word "God" in its program. Madeline Murray O'Hare, an atheist, died several years go, but not before she succeeded in preventing the reading of the Bible in public schools. Now her organization is scheduled to appear before a federal board in Washington D.C., which is hearing its petition to ban the reading of the Gospel, including Sunday worship services, over radio and television.

This group has come a long way to reach what it has achieved today. O'Hare made some noises but most people ignored her until it was too late to realize the threat she brought in the guise of upholding her right to be heard. Now they have lost their right to pray in schools and in offices across the United States. Wasn't it astounding that a handful of atheists could overturn the religious rights of an entire nation?

I find it funny to hear sex-art lovers calling moral crusaders "moral terrorists." I think it is the other way around. Let me tell you why there are many moral crusaders around.

Not since the Marcos dictatorship has corruption been centralized within the safe walls of Malacañang Palace. Insatiable greed and bacchanalian living became the hallmark of the administration of Joseph Estrada. An entire nation was so stunned by the unbelievable greed of this man and this gave rise to crusaders for truth, justice and good governance. These are the crusaders that sex-art lovers have branded as "moral terrorists." For evil to succeed all one has to do is simply do nothing.

Human rights cannot be absolute. It's got to be tempered with some limitations. Beyond this point, I am not inclined to debate the issue as to who has the greater right to expression. The issue has been battered black and blue in angry kilometric articles written by protagonists on both sides. It is enough that I recount the harm that a boundless exercise of freedom can do to others.

Abaya and a few other good movie directors have shown that they can produce great movies without glorifying sex and violence. Their works will be their contribution to the society that we want to build. A society we want to preserve in the best Filipino tradition for the sake of our children and for the generation to come.

Some filmmakers say movies without sex are unprofitable. I believe it is their lack of creativity, skill and bad scripts that make them so.—**CESAR M. DE LOS REYES, 45 Fordham St., While Plains, Quezon City**

Cronies should join Erap in jail

LOI Estrada's boast that a revolution would erupt if Joseph Estrada is arrested is empty bluster while Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's threat of a civil war is mad ranting. Erap could not even muster enough numbers of his rent-a-crowd to prevent his ouster from power, so how can he now launch an uprising to save himself from incarceration?

The ousted president is capable only of provoking a coup, not inspiring a revolution. He may not have the magic to inspire a revolt but he surely has the means to lead a coup.

The people must be forewarned that a coup d'état is a distinct possibility. Desperate men like Erap and his coup-pals are capable of doing desperate things. If the cases being prepared against Ping Lacson will prosper, then he will have the motive to renew ties with his patron and together they can form a new cabal.

The plunder cases against Erap and several of his cronies must be pursued to their conclusion until justice is served. Meanwhile his erstwhile partners in crime now turned witnesses like William Gatchalian and Mark Jimenez must not be allowed to go scot-free. They, together with Lucio Tan and Danding Cojuangco, grew fat from the country's coffers just like Erap.

It would be a miscarriage of justice if Erap is incarcerated while Gatchalian, Jimenez, Tan and Cojuangco remain free. The people must at least give Erap the privilege of sharing the rest of his life in jail with his ex-buddies turned betrayers.—**WILSON FORTALEZA, national president, Sanlakas, 92 Masikap St., Barangay Central, Diliman, Quezon City**

The WORLD

SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

Quebec braces for protests

AN ISRAELI soldier looks though his rifle scope from a roof top in the West Bank village of Baka Sharqia where curfew has been imposed. REUTERS

QUEBEC CITY, Canada—Leaders from North, Central and South America began arriving here Thursday as authorities in this quiet provincial capital closed off a perimeter around the summit, with thousands of protesters expected here this weekend.

Twenty-one presidents and 13 prime ministers from the Americas—excluding Cuba—are gathering here for the third Summit of the Americas, which begins today, to discuss democracy, economic integration, technology access and social issues.

Some 6,000 police on hand to protect the leaders, 10 of whom have already arrived, sealed off a 3.8-km, three-meter high wire fence.

By 6 p.m., the security perimeter was fully in place, closing off the area surrounding the two summit meeting sites, the Quebec City Convention Center and Quebec Hilton hotel.

With especially issued passes required to pass through the barriers, the streets within the perimeter were deserted except for a few journalists and police wandering around.

Early arrivals

A few hundred early arrivals—out of the 10,000 to 50,000 activists expected—rallied Thursday against the agricultural policies that they maintain tie farmers' hands.

Other activists have gathered elsewhere in the city for a so-called People's Summit to discuss alternatives to the official summit's proposed hemispheric free trade pact.

Rebel French farmer Jose Bove, who came to media attention when he trashed a McDonald's hamburger restaurant in southern France in 1999, pressed activists here to fight by any means necessary the spread of using genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Bove, who obtained a special ministerial permit to enter Canada for demonstrations against the summit, denounced the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) as a means of expanding GMO use.

Responding to a question on whether he was calling for violence, Bove said "when a situation imposes itself, one must resort to illegal (means) so that the rights of people are respected."

"The fight against GMOs is a fundamental fight, whether you're a farmer or a citizen," he said.

The FTAA would become the world's largest trading zone once implemented—the countries to be included have a combined annual domestic output of some $11 trillion in goods and services.

Leaked draft

A leaked draft document of a final statement to be made at the close of the official summit, published by a leftist media group on its website, states the leaders at the Summit of the Americas will commit to a January 2005 date to wrap up FTAA negotiations, and the trade pact will come into force by December 2005.

The draft, reportedly leaked by a member of an official delegation, also includes a clause spelling out in strong terms that any nation in which the democratic process has been interrupted may be excluded from future summits.

Argentina will host the next Summit of the Americas, the draft indicates.

Outside of the fenced security perimeter, businesses and restaurants in the old city were securing their store windows late Thursday in anticipation of protesters.

"These measures are being taken because of what happened at the meetings in Seattle, Washington and Davos," said Xavier Brebion, a small store owner.

Protesters shut down a World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle in 1999.

Police have arrested seven individuals and charged them with possessing explosives and stolen military equipment. *AFP*

Doomed man won't appeal execution

CARSON CITY, Nevada—Sebastian Stephanus Bridges is ready to die.

The South African national sentenced to death for killing his estranged wife's lover won't appeal, even though he has said he is not guilty and was treated unfairly in court.

Gov. Kenny Guinn said Wednesday that he would not intervene to halt Saturday's lethal injection. He said Bridges could appeal if he wants.

Nevada lawmakers are considering a two-year moratorium on capital punishment, but it would affect only inmates fighting for their lives, not those who want to die.

Bridges, 37, is adamant in his refusal to let anyone else appeal on his behalf, even though he would be entitled to an automatic stay. He even sent word to the South African government to stay out of the case.

Bridges was convicted in the shooting death of Hunter Blatchford outside Las Vegas in 1997. Bridges has alleged that his estranged wife Laurie, who testified against him, committed the crime, but said he took the blame out of "fatal, unconditional love and loyalty to her."

He was prevented from using his own money, about $56,000 seized when he was arrested, to hire a lawyer. As a result, he defended himself—and got a death sentence "for what people are saying is not a death penalty case," said assistant public defender Michael Pescetta.

The Sixth Amendment right to counsel wasn't raised by a public defender in a mandatory appeal to the state Supreme Court, and the high court wouldn't let Pescetta's office raise the issue because the county defender hadn't.

Bridges isn't giving interviews, but in a 16-page letter written in 1998, he said his decision shouldn't be viewed as a sign of mental illness or suicidal intent. He said he doesn't want to prolong "the inevitable fate," even though his "rights have been violated from day one."

"The right to choose to appeal and/or accept your punishment should be left to the defendant, without interference," he said. *AP*

GAZA TENSIONS

Sharon mulls over next move

JERUSALEM—Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat ordered an end to mortar attacks against Israel, officials said Thursday, as hardline Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's security Cabinet met in special session to chart out Israel's next move faced with the violence.

Amid fears of a wider conflict, including at the Lebanese front, US President George W. Bush telephoned his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad to urge "restraint," following a harsh US rebuke of Israel's occupation of a chunk of land in the northern Gaza Strip Monday night.

Israel split the Gaza Strip into three following the massive operation, called in response to mortar fire on an Israeli town. But Israel announced it would ease the closure starting Friday to ease conditions on the Palestinians.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had Wednesday "issued an order to the head of the security branches to prevent shooting to Israel and to Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territory," a Palestinian official said.

But Israeli television reported continued mortar fire Thursday targeting the southern Israeli kibbutz of Nir Oz from the Gaza Strip, without casualties.

In response to the nearly daily mortar fire, Sharon held a meeting with his inner security Cabinet, although no decisions were announced.

The hardline former general had come under fire from ministers for his failure to consult them on the controversial Gaza incursion, which was called off following US criticism but raised international fears that the situation could spiral out of control.

Bush telephoned Assad to discuss developments in the region, particularly in Lebanon, and "both agreed on the urgent need to restore calm to the area," as well as "the need for all parties to use restraint," said Bush spokesperson Ari Fleischer.

But Assad told Bush the "repeated calls for restraint have become useless, and it is necessary to diagnose the problem to find effective solutions," according to Syria's official SANA agency.

"We place responsibility for everything that happens in the region on Israel and we reserve the right to respond in a manner that we consider appropriate," Assad said, according to SANA. *AFP*

Endeavor blasts off

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida—The Space Shuttle Endeavor and its multinational crew blasted off Thursday for the International Space Station.

The crew of seven—including four US astronauts, a Canadian, an Italian and a Russian—have as their chief goal on the 11-day mission the installation of the 17.6-meter Canadarm2 mechanical arm on the exterior of the station's US-built Destiny laboratory module.

They also were to deliver the Italian-made Raffaello module, a container carrying equipment, clothes, food and new scientific experiments for the space station's permanent crew, including studies on plant growth in zero gravity and radiation in space.

Endeavor blasted off at 2:41 p.m. (2:41 a.m. Friday in Manila) under ideal weather conditions in what National Aeronautics and Space Administration spokesperson Bruce Buckingham called "a flawless launch."

The two-day shuttle flight to the station will be a test of close-quarters international diplomacy, as Russian Yuri Lonchakov, Canadian Chris Hadfield and Italian Umberto Guidoni cram into Endeavor with four US astronauts.

Endeavor is set to dock with the station—in orbit roughly 311 km above the Earth—on Saturday.

After docking, a get-together has been planned for the Endeavor crew and the station's residents, Russian Commander Yuri Usachev and Americans Susan Helms and James Voss, who have been in place since March.

Hadfield, who will be the first Canadian to walk in space, will be joined by US astronaut Scott Parazynski on two spacewalks to install the flexible upgrade of Canadarm1, previously used by shuttles to move things into and out of cargo bays. A third spacewalk is planned if needed. *AFP*

Search on for new Japan PM

TOKYO—In what has turned out to be a key contest, Japan's ruling party geared up yesterday for a weekend of primaries across the country to select a replacement for unpopular Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori.

The primaries were called to elect a new president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Mori now holds the post, but is stepping down amid public anger over the scandals and gaffes that have dogged his year-old administration.

Under the party's election system, 141 votes will be cast by its local chapters and 346 by its members of Parliament. If no candidate wins a majority after the lawmakers vote next Tuesday, a run-off between the top two would be held.

Former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and former Health Minister Junichiro Kolizumi are seen as the front-runners, though two others—party policy chief Shizuka Kamei and Economic Minister Taro Aso—are also in the race.

The winner will be named prime minister because of the ruling party's strength in Parliament.

In past party elections, a candidate's support among the lawmakers was the most important factor toward being elected. But the party increased the number of local votes because of growing criticism that the concerns of the general membership were not being sufficiently represented. *AP*

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Fidel V. Ramos

Political advertisement paid for by friends of Juan M. Flavier.

China shows own tape in video war

WASHINGTON—In a war of videos, Beijing is showing its own tape of US fighter pilots flying close to Chinese jets, much as the Pentagon has been using its video show to portray China as the aggressor over the South China Sea.

The Chinese played their video Thursday during the second day of talks in Beijing on who is to blame for the April 1 collision of a Navy surveillance plane and a Chinese fighter jet that was shadowing it. Pentagon officials dismissed the tape as misleading and irrelevant.

The Chinese footage, apparently shot last year, showed US Navy F-14 and F/A-18 fighters near what appeared to be the Chinese coastline. It seemed to have been shot from the cockpit of a Chinese plane, and an American pilot can be seen taking pictures back.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhang Qiyue said the video depicted "dangerous and aggressive" US flying.

The Pentagon's spokesperson, Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, disagreed.

"That showed clearly the F-14 and F/A-18s that were in the proximity of whatever type of Chinese aircraft it was—I assume it was a jet . . . and what you saw was quite a civil distance being maintained," he said.

Distorted distance

Quigley said the video was shot in such a way as to distort the distance between the American and Chinese planes.

"They were pretty quick with the zoom button on the video camera, and it brought the aircraft much closer, but I think the starting point of the video that they showed indeed showed the US aircraft at what we would consider a prudent distance from the Chinese aircraft, and that's all we're asking for in this case is prudent, non-aggressive, non-threatening flying," he added.

The Chinese video was released as a counterpoint to an American video shown at a Pentagon news conference last week by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in which the pilot of a Chinese F-8 fighter is shown flying outside the wing of an American turboprop surveillance aircraft off the Chinese coast earlier this year. Rumsfeld said it proved that Chinese pilots had been flying dangerously close to American surveillance aircraft in international airspace even before the April 1 collision.

"It's dueling videos," said Steven Aftergood, an intelligence analyst for the private Federation of American Scientists. "There obviously is a battle of public perception going on."

In Thursday's talks in Beijing, the Chinese reiterated their position that the Navy EP-3E Aries II surveillance plane turned suddenly into the path of their fighter, causing a collision and sending the fighter plunging into the sea. The pilot was lost and the Navy plane was forced to make an emergency landing at China's Hainan island.

US options

The US negotiators in Beijing presented a written proposal for permitting a team of US aeronautical engineers and EP-3E experts to go to Hainan and inspect the plane in order to determine whether it makes more sense to repair and fly it out or take it apart and ship it out, officials said.

China, which has not said it will return the plane, is expected to answer the US proposal through diplomatic channels.

At the White House, Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, said the future of US-China relations will be determined in part by how the current dispute is resolved.

"Obviously, to have a fruitful and productive relationship going on with China, it's going to take two who want a fruitful and productive relationship," Rice said. "So, how the Chinese continue to describe what happened, how the Chinese talk about what happened will matter a lot." *AP*

Another KL oppositionist nabbed

KUALA LUMPUR—Police arrested a prominent opposition leader yesterday under laws allowing his detention without trial, bringing to eight the number of anti-government activists detained since last week.

About 30 plain clothes officers arrested Badrulamin Baharom, a member of the National Justice Party's supreme council, at his home in Kuala Lumpur early yesterday morning, his nephew Nazaruddin Mohamad Ferdoos said.

"They ransacked our house for about 45 minutes and then told him he was being arrested under the Internal Security Act," said Nazaruddin, who was present at the pre-dawn raid.

Duty police refused to comment on the arrests and referred inquiries to senior officers, who were not available.

The Internal Security Act, written with the help of British colonial authorities and introduced in the early 1960s to quell a communist insurgency, allows authorities to detain people indefinitely without trial.

Human rights and lawyers' groups have urged the government to abolish or tone down the act, arguing it is no longer needed. The opposition claims the government is using the act to stifle dissent. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said this week there are no plans to change the act.

Badrulamin, 39, a former university lecturer, has a reputation as a fiery speaker at opposition rallies.

Nazaruddin said police seized Badrulamin's computer and several National Justice Party leaflets and party flags during the raid.

He said Badrulamin was not involved in organizing an opposition rally last Saturday to mark the second anniversary of jailed politician Anwar Ibrahim conviction for corruption.

The seven other detained activists were all involved in organizing the rally, and were picked up days before it was held. Police chief Norian Mai said at the time that more arrests were expected. *AP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

₱1.5M for crime lab

ROXAS CITY—The city government has allocated P1,580,000 for the construction of a crime laboratory to boost the city's anti-drug campaign, said Mayor Antonio del Rosario. The absence of a crime lab in Capiz has been cited as one of the factors that hamper the city's fight against illegal drugs. Law enforcers had to go to Iloilo for examination of substance seized from suspected drug pushers.

Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Motion denied

ROXAS CITY—Assistant City Prosecutor Eduardo Delfin has denied an appeal of the Provincial Anti-Illegal Drug Task Force (PAIDTF) on his earlier ruling dismissing charges against three suspected drug peddlers. Delfin junked the charges against Rex Banico, Nestor Soriano and Joaquin Masigon for lack of evidence after he noted the policemen's contradictory statements on the circumstances of the suspects' arrest. Delfin said the preliminary investigation aimed to secure the innocent from hasty prosecution and protect them from the anxiety of a public trial. The PAIDTF said the flaws in the testimonies were minor and should not be construed as falsehood.

Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

4 die in bus accident

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Four persons were killed while 14 others were hurt after a bus rammed into a huge mountain rock in Barangay Pinaripad Norte in Aglipay, Quirino, on Black Saturday. Police identified three of the fatalities as Delfin Yadan, 52; Luz Taylan, 28, and her son Jeffrey, 7. Police said the Quisa Liner bus bound for Santiago City in Isabela was cruising along the winding Disiluad Road in Aglipay when a jeepney appeared from a blind curve. The driver steered the bus to avoid the jeepney but it hit the boulder at the mountainside.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

NPA campaign fees

CAMP ADDURU, Tuguegarao City—Communist rebels have been collecting campaign and access fees from candidates who want to campaign in their strongholds in Isabela, regional police officials said. Chief Supt. Dominador Resos Jr., regional police director, cited reports indicating that the New People's Army was collecting between P10,000 and P50,000 from local candidates. Resos said he has ordered his men to pursue the rebels and stop the practice.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Grenade throwers nabbed

ANGAT, Bulacan—Police on Monday arrested two men suspected of throwing a grenade at the house of former Mayor Leonardo de Leon on Feb. 24. Supt. Emelito Sarmiento, provincial police director, said Rodel Oqueno, 26, and Carlos Dicerio, 23, were arrested in separate operations in San Jose del Monte City. De Leon escaped unhurt but his two visitors suffered minor injuries from the blast. Oqueno said they were ordered to kill De Leon but were paid only P1,000 each, instead of P100,000, for the job.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

2 NPA rebels slain

KAYAPA, Nueva Vizcaya—Two suspected communist rebels were killed after their group engaged Army soldiers and policemen in a 45-minute gun battle in the boundary of Barangays Canabuan and Bantinan here last week. Reports said some 30 retreating rebels carried their two slain comrades. Supt. Romeo Hilomen, provincial police director, said an Armalite rifle recovered from the encounter site was among the firearms seized by NPA rebels from the Sta. Fe police during a raid last year.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Teacher found dead

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A teacher who was reported missing was found dead near a poultry farm in Barangay Larion here last week. Police said the body of Elias Sera, a teacher of the Cagayan National High School, bore bullet wounds. His sister, Carolina Mallilin, said that before his brother's death, she received a text message from Sera that two soldiers had been harassing him. Sera, however, did not identify the soldiers, Mallilin said.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 35° Lo 25°	Baguio Hi 27° Lo 17°	Tuguegarao Hi 35° Lo 23°	Laoag Hi 34° Lo 24°
Clark Zone Hi 35° Lo 25°	Tagaytay Hi 33° Lo 22°	Legazpi Hi 33° Lo 25°	Calapan Hi 34° Lo 23°
Bacolod Hi 34° Lo 26°	Roxas Hi 32° Lo 26°	Cebu Hi 32° Lo 26°	Tacloban Hi 34° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos Hi 33° Lo 23°	Zamboanga Hi 33° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 33° Lo 23°	Davao Hi 34° Lo 26°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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INFO ON MAYOR'S KILLERS

Chavit offers ₱300,000 reward

STA. LUCIA, Ilocos Sur—Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson is offering a P300,000 reward to anybody who can give information leading to the arrest of the suspects in the killing of Mayor Teodoro Hernaez and his three police escorts.

Insp. Rene Ligutan, police chief here, said Singson relayed the offer to Supt. Fidel Cimatu, acting provincial police director.

"The killing of Mayor Hernaez and his escorts should be immediately solved so as not to affect the present peace and order situation and economic climate of the province," said Singson in Ilocano over a radio station here.

Hernaez and his escorts were gunned down while attending a village fiesta here Wednesday night.

His political rival and mayoral bet, Vice Mayor Romulo Gracia, took his oath as new mayor at noon Thursday.

Ligutan said police were looking into the involvement of communist rebels in the killing based on "the pattern of the killing which was well-planned and executed."

"It was done in just a few seconds" he said.

He, however, said politics was also being looked into as a motive.

Dr. Ferdinand Hernaez, the slain mayor's eldest son, said "we are not discounting the involvement of the New People's Army, but our family firmly believes that it is politics."

He said his family had received threats from the rebels in previous elections "but we were never harmed."

As police were investigating the killing, more incidents of pre-election violence have been reported elsewhere.

Samar ambush

On Thursday morning, a supporter of a congressional candidate in Samar was killed while another was seriously wounded in an ambush staged by three armed men in an interior village in Calbayog City, 187 km north of Tacloban City.

The fatality was identified as Marcelino Niangga, 32, a long-time supporter of Reynaldo Uy, a Liberal Party congressional candidate for the first district of Samar.

Marcelino was declared dead on arrival at the Camellius Hospital in Calbayog. His companion, Armando Calderon, was still confined in the hospital.

Supt. Felipe Portacio, police director for Samar, said Marcelino and his brother, Eduardo, were casual employees at the Calbayog City Hall.

Calderon, he added, was a driver of a bulldozer owned by a construction firm of Benita Mancol, a candidate for a seat in the Calbayog City Council. Mancol and Uy belong to the same party.

In Sultan Kudarat, armed men fired at the compound of Sultan Kudarat Vice Gov. Rolando Recinto, who is running for mayor of

CHAVIT/ A13

PHOTOS REPRODUCED BY BEN MOSES EBREO

THE VICTIMS: Precy Afalla (left photo) and her children, Mark Anthony, Michael Angelo and Cheenie Claire.

Riverbank bodies identified

BY BEN MOSES EBREO
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The police alarm for the suspect in the murder of four people, one of them a pregnant woman, has come to naught after he reportedly slipped out of the country.

Investigators reported that Danilo Afalla, a seaman and main suspect in the grisly murders, left Thursday night on board a Lufthansa Airlines flight for Europe.

His name was disclosed by police after they identified the four decomposing bodies recovered Wednesday from a shallow grave on a riverbank in Barangay Don Mariano Marcos here as those of his wife and three children.

The victims were Precy Afalla, 36, and her children Cheenie Claire, 13, Mark Anthony, 11, and Michael Angelo, 5, all of Taytay, Rizal.

Police earlier flashed an alarm for Afalla, who was scheduled to leave the country this week, and for a new Mitsubishi Adventure van, which was reportedly used to bring the bodies to the banks of the Magat River.

But Chief Insp. Narciso Verdadero, chief of the intelligence and investigation section of the provincial police and acting police chief here, said he was informed that Afalla had left the country.

THE SUSPECT: Danilo Afalla

The van was recovered from Afalla's sister in Parañaque City. Verdadero said Afalla left the van at his sister's house before going to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Thursday night.

Police initially thought Afalla was also a victim and his body dumped in the area.

"But what is puzzling is that the victims' van, which was shown in the photos (recovered near the bodies) were identified by the villagers as the one they saw here on April 14 and 15," said Supt. Romeo Hilomen, provincial police director.

He said the pieces of evidence so far pointed to passion killing.

An autopsy report showed that the victims had been severely beaten. There were no signs that they were shot or stabbed.

The body of Afalla's wife was identified based on a tattoo of a rose bud on her upper left breast as shown in the recovered pictures.

Engineer Reynaldo Agub, chair of the municipal crime watch, said a photo envelope containing film negatives was found near the bodies. The envelope, dated April 5, was addressed to "Precy Afalla of Taytay, Rizal."

When the negatives were developed, the photos showed the suspect, the victims and four others believed to be friends of the Afallas, Agub said. The photos were taken beside the van, he added.

Police traced Afalla's relatives at Barangay Salvacion in Bayombong, who were visited by the victims on March 30. According to Modesta Afalla, the suspect's mother, the victims, together with Danilo, arrived in her house early morning of March 30 for a vacation.

She said they left on April 2 for Baguio City where they would stay before they would accompany Afalla to the airport for his trip to the United States on April 19. From the US, Afalla would board his ship for another destination, his mother said. *With a report from Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mindoreños hail DENR scrapping of mining project

BY JOEL JABAL
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAPAN CITY—Local leaders and anti-mining advocates have claimed victory in their campaign against a controversial mining project here.

Their jubilation arose from reports that Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez found "sufficient ground to revoke" the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) of Aglubang Mining Corp. (AMC).

"This is another victory for Mindoro. This would not have happened without the concerted efforts of the Mindoreños," said Gov. Rodolfo Valencia after a telephone conversation with Alvarez yesterday morning.

Alvarez later faxed to Valencia a copy of a six-page memorandum to President Macapagal-Arroyo stating the grounds for the revocation of the MPSA.

The agreement was approved by then Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles in December last year while the nation's attention was focused on the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada.

The MPSA was good for 25 years and covered some 9,720 hectares in the mountains of Victoria town in Oriental Mindoro and Sablayan town in Occidental Mindoro.

The area is inside a watershed and includes land being claimed as ancestral domain by the Mangyans, according to critics of the mining project.

Valencia disclosed that he had written Ms Macapagal days after she came to power asking for the cancellation of the MPSA.

He said he never lost hope that the MPSA and the mining project would be scrapped altogether.

Valencia was among the vocal local officials who campaigned against the mining activities of then Mindex Resources Development, which was later renamed Crew Minerals Philippines (CMP), after Canadian investors bought into the company.

"If the people, the Church and local leadership are united, then nothing is impossible," said Evelyn Cacha, chair of Alyansa Laban sa Mina (Alamin), a coalition of individuals and groups opposed to the mining project.

"This is a victory of the people of Mindoro. Everybody contributed, including the priests, the governor and the mayors, the Mangyans, the farmers and other sectors," said Cacha, who even went to Oslo, Norway, to campaign against the mining activities here.

Cacha asked the President to uphold Alvarez's recommendations and permanently bar mining activities in Oriental Mindoro.

In his April 11 memorandum, Alvarez noted that AMC acquired the MPSA when CMPI, formerly Mindex, assigned to it for "one peso" its exploration permit, which expired on March 15.

He also found that AMC failed to get an environmental impact assessment and "prior approval" of the concerned local government units in violation of the Local Government Code of 1991 and department regulations.

"We submit that lacking the prescribed EIA and approval of the Sanggunian, the MPSA cannot be valid and enforceable for Aglubang to commence any mining operations," stressed Alvarez.

He noted that AMC had no "proven track record" aside from being a mere "assignee" of an exploration permit.

The firm, he said, had an initial capitalization of only P1 million, which was later increased to P10 million with a paid-up capital of P2.5 million.

Alvarez said the operations of AMC, which is also owned by officers of CMP/Mindex, must be reviewed, considering that the firm's programmed exploration expenses amounted to more than P11 million.

Alvarez also junked the alleged "notarized manifestos" of 29,545 individuals in support of the mining project.

"The so-called manifestos were prepared by one person and signed by individuals who had no chance of qualifying their endorsement or going against the project," said Alvarez who stressed that the resolutions of the Sanggunian were "more credible in assessing the social acceptability of the mining project."

2 Koreans nabbed for kidnapping

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Two South Koreans, one of whom was a fugitive in his own country, were arrested Thursday in a beach resort in Lapulapu City on Mactan Island.

Yun Jang Lee, 41, and Sang Yul, 49, did not resist arresting agents of the Bureau of Immigration and the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division in Central Visayas (RIID).

They were collared at the Blue Wind Diving Resort, owned by Lee, in Sitio Buyong, Barangay Maribago.

Lee, the target of the operation, is wanted in South Korea for murder. Police also suspected him of being involved in kidnapping of South Koreans.

Supt. Jonathan Miano, RIID-7 chief, said Yul was also arrested after he failed to present travel papers to prove the legality of his stay in the Philippines.

Supt. Lino Calingasan and Chief Insp. Winnie Quiñato, both of the Immigration special operation team, escorted the two to Manila where they will undergo deportation proceedings.

The two foreigners denied involvement in illegal activities in response to questions from local journalists and policemen.

Miano said police investigators could hardly get information from them because they do not speak English fluently.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo had issued a mission order against Lee on April 18 after receiving a letter from Consul Gyung Taek Cha of the Korean police attaché's office, seeking assistance for the capture and deportation of Lee.

Lee is wanted by the Korean National Police Agency for murder.

Cha also sent Domingo a copy of Lee's arrest warrant and his photograph.

"The subject (Lee) is believed to be residing in Cebu and he owns a Korean restaurant named Go Dong Ri near the Mactan International Airport," he wrote.

Cha said Lee could have been using a fake passport because he was not issued any Korean passport. There was no record of his departure from Korea, he added.

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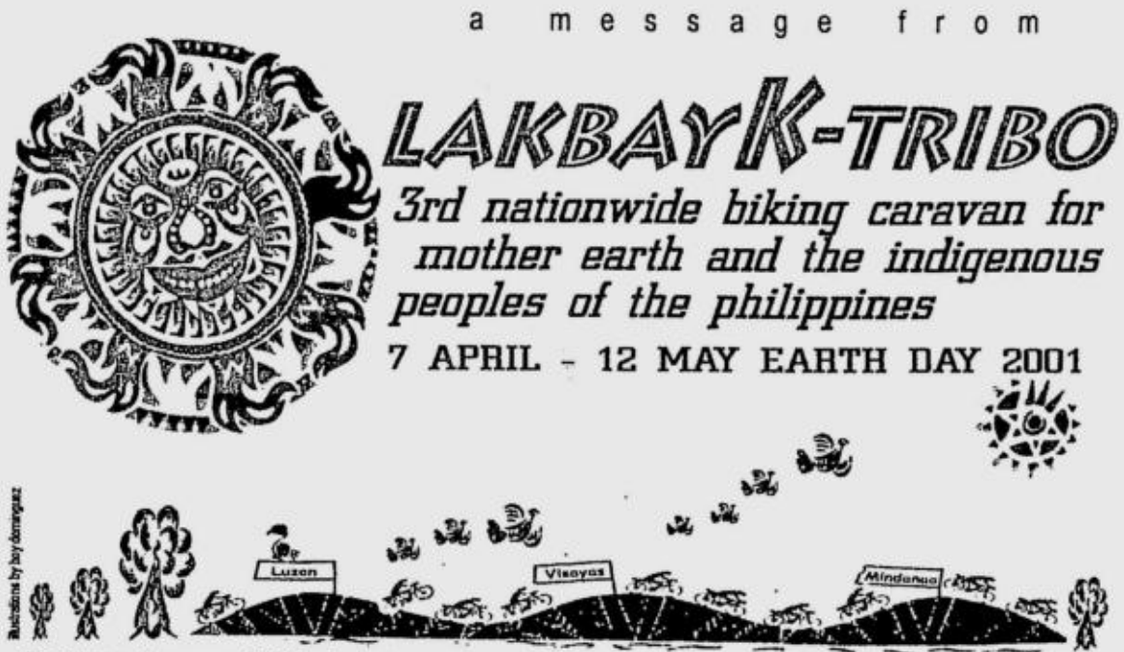

Illustrations by Jay Dimayuga

To drum up the cause of Philippine indigenous groups, the principles of sustainability, ecology and environment protection, and, recognition and respect for indigenous people's rights. • To generate public awareness and consciousness on the long years of exploitation and subjugation of the estimated 12 million indigenous peoples and their various histories of resistance for the defense of their ancestral lands, domains and resources, for self-determination, empowerment and self-governance. www.lakbayk-tribo.com

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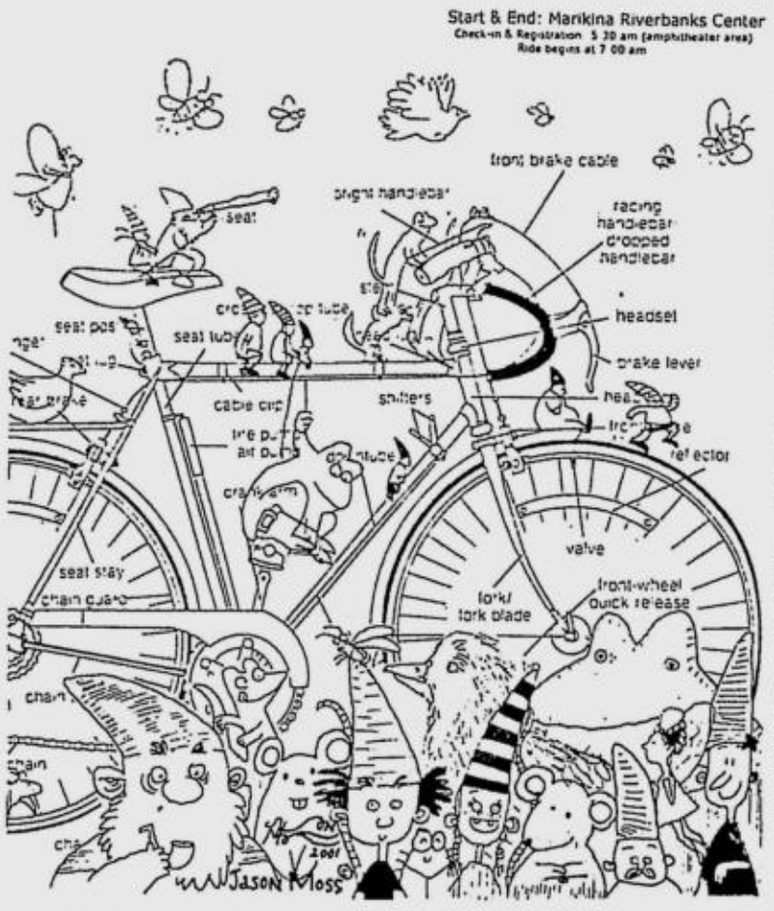
Start & End: Marikina Riverbanks Center
Check-in & Registration 5:30 am (amphitheater area)
Ride begins at 7:00 am



When was the last time you saw fireflies in the city?

The fireflies have all fled because of air pollution. All of us, cyclists, walkers, runners, pedestrians, commuters, even those of us who ride cars, all of us who live and work, who make love and raise families in the city are in danger of suffering the same fate as pollution remains unabated due to discharges from motor vehicles and factories. We are also in danger of disappearing like the fireflies, but we can choose to fight for clean air and bring the fireflies back.

The 50 k Ride

The Tour of the Fireflies is a 50 km social bike tour of cities around Metro Manila. The pace will be moderate and the pack will be controlled so that even occasional riders, older children and senior people can enjoy the ride.

The ride will make several short trips along the route in order for the whole caravan to regroup. There will be a major rest stop (20 mins) at the halfway point in Fort Bonifacio at the Global City Cycle Fest. The ride is expected to take about 3.5 to 4 hours.

A S.A.G (support and gear) wagon will be available for those unable to continue the ride. Also, participants may "abandon" the ride at specific points and proceed directly to Marikina Riverbanks. However, they will have to take care of themselves as they cycle in motor vehicle traffic.

Where to register (Registration fee is P50):
Bike shops: *The Bike Room* (Pasay: Cartimar) *Joven* (Pasig near Marikina: Amang Rodriguez near cor Marcos Hi-way) *Roosevelt* (Q.C.: Roosevelt ave. near cor. Baler) *Extreme* (Q.C.: Timog cor. Panay) *Bicycle Works* (Aurora Blvd, Cubao, near Isetann) *Bisikleta Atbp* (marikina: JP Rizal cor Sumulong Hiway near Bingo) To avail of souvenir t-shirts/jerseys/cycling shorts, please register by April 8. Those who register after this date or on-site may claim their orders 2 weeks after the ride (May 5) at Joven Bike Shop The Body Shop Alabang Town Center, Glorietta 2, SM Southmall/Megamall/Fairview/ City North Edsa,Robinson's Galleria/Place Manila, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Festival Supermall

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ALL Participants, adults & kids alike, are very much encouraged to WEAR COSTUMES and decorate their bikes. The more costumed we are, the merrier we will be!!! Cash & Special Prizes for Best Costume & Decorated Bikes!

THE BODY SHOP

Chavit offers ₱300,000 reward for info on mayor's killers

(From page A11)

Lambayong town, at 1 a.m. Thursday.

Recinto's house also serves as his campaign headquarters.

No one was hurt in the attack, which, according to Insp. Romeo Juan del Rosario, Lambayong police chief, was "politically motivated."

Recinto was sleeping in his room when the motorcycle-riding men, wielding M-16 rifles and M-79 grenade launchers, opened fire.

Recinto was mayor of Lambayong from 1988 to 1998 and was elected vice governor in 1998.

The gunmen also fired at the house and clinic of his brother-in-law, Dr. Felecisimo Evangelista. The clinic is beside the vice governor's house.

Del Rosario said Recinto's police escorts engaged the gunmen in a five-minute battle, forcing the attackers to flee.

MILF denial

In Cotabato City, reelectionist Maguindanao Gov. Zacaria Candao joined the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in issuing denials of alleged involvement in the April 17 ambush in Barangay Baka, Datu Odin Sinsuat, that left three persons killed and five others wounded.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said he had received a report that armed men believed to be MILF rebels fired at the convoy of vehicles of Kampi gubernatorial candidate Andal Ampatuan.

The alleged ambush triggered a shootout that resulted in the death of innocent civilians, Ando said.

"It was highly inconceivable that children and old women could afford to stage an ambush against a powerful and heavily guarded convoy," Candao said.

Witnesses said nearly a hundred vehicles, including two Army trucks from Shariff Aguak en route to Parang town, were along the national highway of Barangay Baka when the shooting happened.

"How can you stage an ambush with that number of vehicles, mostly carrying armed security men of politicians?" Candao asked.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said residents claimed there were no assailants.

"It was just the military that reported the ambush and blamed the MILF for it," Kabalu said.

"The MILF would not launch an offensive, like an ambush, at a time (when) we are trying to strengthen our confidence-building measures in preparation for the resumption of the (stalled) peace talks with the government," he added.

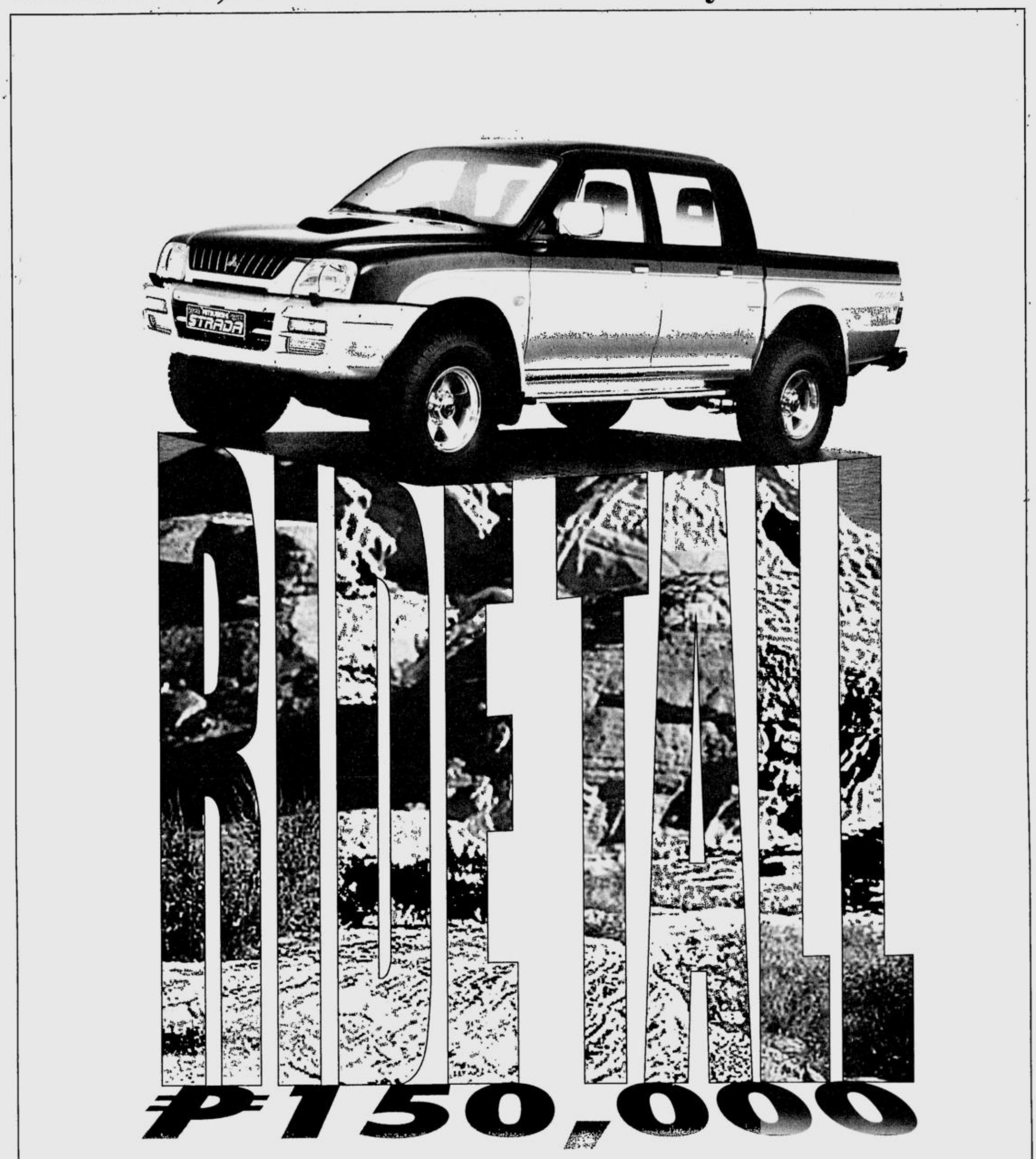
"This kind of allegation by the military is irresponsible and may cause to derail the (MILF's) improving relationship with the government. We have nothing to do with this (ambush), because even the group of Ampatuan did not say that the suspects were MILF," Kabalu said.

NPA demand

In Agusan del Sur, suspected NPA rebels who have taken hostage four Lakas-NUCD candidates in Bayugan town, have demanded P60,000 in exchange for the freedom of the three remaining victims, the military said yesterday.

Col. Francisco Fuentes, chief of the Army Task Force Diamond III, said the rebels had released Gregorio Bordeos, a candidate for councilor, to deliver the ransom demand last Wednesday.

Suspected NPA rebels abducted Bordeos and three other bets on April 17, while they were on the way back from a political rally in Barangay Salem in Bayugan. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, Cynthia Borqueta, PDI Visayas Bureau; Edwin Fernandez, Charlie Señase and Froilan Gallardo with a report from Ferdinand Zuasola and Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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It's fish politics in Bohol

BY ALEX PAL
Loon, Bohol

ONE has reached old age, they say, when one keeps talking about his past more than his future.

While having maintained his youthful looks at 43, Natalio Lajera must be feeling old. He keeps looking back at the time when the fish were so abundant in his village of Cabacongan on Cabilao Island off Loon, Bohol.

"There used to be a time when our nets would tear at the size of our *tulingan*," he reminisced.

An abundant catch is now just a memory for Tayoy, as he is called in the village, as well as for most of the 700 Cabilao fisherfolk.

Years of intrusion by commercial fishers into their fishing grounds, blast fishing and other destructive methods either scared the fish away or left the fish without any chance to breed.

With hardly any hope left, Tayoy joined hands with parish priest Ding Zamora in organizing the Nagkahiusang Mananagat sa Cabilao (United Fishers of Cabilao) or the Nagmaca in 1991 to empower the poor fisherfolk against the operators of commercial fishing and others employing destructive fishing methods.

Despite a series of arrests and patrols led by the priest and the local fishers, the commercial fishers and other illegal fishers repeatedly returned.

It was in 1997 when the concept of a marine sanctuary was first introduced in Cabilao. Patterned after the successful Apo Island community-based resource management project in Negros Oriental, the sanctuary closed 11.8 hectares of the 400-hectare Cabilao Reef to fishing and all other types of exploitation.

This area is what scientists call "a living bank account and reproduction area" of a large variety of fishes and invertebrates.

As chair of the Nagmaca, Tayoy leads his 20 members in alternately guarding the reef.

ALEX V PAL

CHILDREN in Barangay Cabacongan on Cabias Island seem to ponder on their fate as their future fishing ground is threatened by diverse political interests.

Election issue

The Nagmaca has been successful in some ways. But recent political developments are threatening the gains made so far by the fishers in their battle to keep the sanctuary.

"We have heard stories being peddled by the former barangay captain that if former Loon Mayor Fred Carresosa (Lakas-NUCD) wins his comeback bid in the elections, he will demolish the sanctuary," says Eduardo Castiotos, a Nagmaca member.

Carresosa was the mayor when the first two sanctuaries of Loon were declared on Cabilao and Sandignan Islands. But it was his vice mayor, now reelectionist Mayor Cesar Thomas Lopez (PDP-Laban), who was responsible for creating the local ordinance that declared a portion of the municipal waters a marine sanctuary to be managed by the community.

"Not true," Carresosa says, when told of the fishers' fears. "I agree with marine sanctuaries in theory, but I am not in favor of its implementation because I keep hearing stories about selective enforcement of the law," he tells the INQUIRER.

Carresosa says politics has entered the picture in the enforcement of fishery laws in Cabilao, pointing to the recent arrest and imprisonment of some locals who had intruded the sanctuary.

"The mayor ordered the filing of the case against the violators and he also paid their bail. Isn't that political?" Carresosa asks.

He also says that what convinced him to accept the project of setting up marine sanctuaries in Loon was the promised budget of P3 million for his town, whose only income then was P15 million that came from the Internal Revenue Allotment.

The money was to be coursed through a local non-government organization in Bohol, but the arrangement had yet to materialize, said Carresosa.

His running mate, Rolando Paluso, is more vocal in his criticism of the marine sanctuaries' operations.

He says the small fishermen are being deprived of their own resources and are sometimes sent to jail, while the commercial fishing operators are allowed to go scot-free.

Paluso says the fish sanctuaries in Barangays Cabacungan, Calayugan Sur and Pondol in Cabilao are okay but voices his opposition to the plan to establish more of such sanctuaries in other barangays, like in Basdaku and Tangnan.

"It is impractical to put up fish sanctuaries in all coastal barangays in Loon because the marginalized fishers, who live on a hand-to-mouth existence, will eventually be driven out of the areas," he says.

Marine sanctuaries, he says, should not be set up in areas where people glean for food during low tide.

Loon has seven marine sanctuaries that cover around 90 hectares, or even less than one percent of its total coastal waters, even as the Fisheries Code authorizes the use of as big as 25-40 percent for this purpose.

Environment vote

The environment issue, Paluso says, "can make one win or lose (the elections), depending on the conscientization and politicization of the voters."

Paluso admits that issues like these are best raised during elections since "there can be no election without issues."

For a town with more than half of the population depending on the sea for food, the environment is a big issue because it is tied up with livelihood, explains Councilor Clovis Nazareno.

"The critics of the marine sanctuaries are only harping at the fact that the area is off-limits to fishers. They don't look at the livelihood side of the projects such as goat raising, chicken dispersal, fish cages and even the increased fish catch," he says.

Reelectionist Vice Mayor Raul Barbarona, an environmental lawyer, says all the marine sanctuaries in Loon were the choices of the community through several barangay consultations. "Not one was rammed down (their throats) by the municipal government," he says.

He also refutes charges of selective enforcement of laws in the marine sanctuary, saying that while big-time fishermen who encroach on the sanctuary are not imprisoned, they are fined before they are allowed to leave.

He says the case of three fishermen who were sent to jail recently was a result of their skipping the arraignment, not because of their having entered the sanctuary.

Like his opponents, Barbarona said he believes that a united fishers' voice can spell the difference in the elections, which has the environment as the only sound issue apart from the usual mudslinging involving graft and corruption charges.

Mayor Lopez, meanwhile, warns that raising the environment as an election issue can have more serious effects.

"The explanations that the critics give have been oversimplified to a point that it may run counter to the rationale of putting up marine reserves in the future."

"Our opponents harp on what the fishers can get 'today' but don't think about tomorrow. There might come a time when it will not be sustainable anymore," Lopez says.

Dr. Angel C. Alcala, former environment secretary and acknowledged pioneer in the establishment of marine sanctuaries in the Philippines, thinks that the issue in Bohol is caused by the opposition's lack of understanding on the functions of sanctuaries.

"They better be educated on the functions of a marine sanctuary," he says.

Not new

The idea of an "environment vote" tied up with livelihood is not really new as Alcala saw this technique being used in 1980 by Cebu politicians.

"It's possible that an environmental issue can bring in or turn away votes. If there is a project that people will not like, they will vote against the candidate who proposed it," Alcala says.

Alcala was then the director of the Silliman University Marine Laboratory when he started the first marine sanctuary on Sumilon Island in Cebu's southern tip in 1974.

Some areas of Sumilon were declared a no-fishing zone. Mayoral candidates in Santander and Oslob towns used this as an election issue.

In a book to be published by Bookmark Publishing in August detailing his experience in Sumilon, Alcala says the mayoral candidates of Santander and Oslob were not in favor of conservation. They also promised to "give Sumilon back to the fishermen" and claimed that Sumilon, being a part of Cebu, should be exploited by the people of Cebu.

The residents of the two towns were also not too clear about the benefits from the marine reserve, in contrast to the over 90-percent acceptance rating by the Bohol fishermen.

Alcala says the mayoral candidates, who were known for their links to commercial fishing operations, kept their promise shortly after election by encouraging the fishers to enter the sanctuary, using the *muro-ami* method, in 1980. By then, fish catch in Sumilon started to decline.

The municipal councils of Santander and Oslob eventually passed ordinances, stopping fishing activities in the reserve in 1987.

"Petty politics," writes Alcala, "can influence the course of conservation initiatives and should be given careful consideration in the conduct of conservation projects."

Winning chances

Would fishers decide the elections in Loon? Vice Mayor Barbarona thinks so. "This election will see if there really is a voice of the fisherfolk," he says.

On the other hand, former Mayor Carresosa said he believes that a candidate's fate cannot yet be anchored solely on the environment issue.

While the politicians are locked in the issue of whether or not marine sanctuaries are beneficial to the people, the fish have seen its value and have returned to the reef.

A study by the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute counted a six-fold increase in fish species since 1997.

This has inspired the fishermen from the neighboring barangay of Pantudlan to create a 10-hectare marine sanctuary at their own initiative.

For most of them, this could be the only treasure they could leave their children.

After Guns, Goons, Gold comes Gutter language

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
Iloilo City

ADD another G to the oft-repeated Guns, Goons and Gold. The fourth is gutter language, which a candidate in Iloilo City has resorted to.

Ilonggos were recently treated to an eight-minute paid broadcast of reelectionist Rep. Augusto Syjuco (LDP, 2nd district) that maligned and poked fun at the gender preferences of his rival, board member Rodolfo Cabado (Lakas-NUCD).

Syjuco also accused Cabado of having a hand in the murder of former Asin bandleader Cesar "Saro" Bañares in Koronadal City in South Cotabato on March 18, 1993.

He claimed Cabado's bodyguards "were responsible for the mauling and killing" of Saro inside a karaoke bar even as Cabado was not among the accused in the murder case.

Streamers that read "Hustisya para kay Saro" were posted in key areas in the district.

Lawyer Gualberto Cataluña and his two aides, Joel and Joelito Castracion, are serving prison terms of 20 to 40 years after a local court in Koronadal found them guilty of Saro's murder.

It was learned that Cataluña was approached last month by one Ricardo Moldez, who claimed to be Syjuco's lawyer. Moldez reportedly offered to help him in his case, but Cataluña said he could not speak ill of Cabado.

Cataluña's family in Janiuay town, 32 kilometers from Iloilo City, asked Syjuco to stop using Saro's case because it pained them and the Bañares clan, who hails from this city.

Syjuco also called Cabado "*madan-log nga halo* (a slippery monitor lizard)" and one who "hunts for young men in nightspots."

In a candidates' forum aired in one radio station, Syjuco called Cabado "*agi* (gay)" who has yet to come out of the closet and a "*layaw nga laon* (a freewheeling bachelor)."

Cabado said he would not dignify Syjuco's allegations with a comment.

"Now Ilonggos would know that Syjuco stooped that low and resorted to gutter language to boost his sagging popularity," Cabado said.

"I have never heard an Ilonggo politician resorting to ugly language as what Syjuco is doing. What has gender preference got to do with good governance?" said Rosario Asong, a humanities professor at the University of the Philippines in the Visayas and the regional gender center chair here.

Asong said she was shocked to hear Syjuco say he gave P2 million to Cabado during the 1998 election campaign and that the money was reportedly used by Cabado to buy a Suzuki Vitara, a Rado watch and a huge diamond ring.

"The Lopezes have been noted for financially supporting local politicians but they never say their money was used to buy this or that," she said.

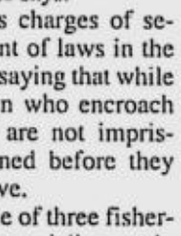
Cabado and former Rep. Alberto Lopez supported Syjuco in the 1998 elections because the latter, after losing three times in Makati City, promised to sit for only one term.

But Syjuco decided to run for a second term, claiming he has "unfinished projects."

Cabado said Syjuco was threatened by a series of exposés that showed he was claiming projects that were not his, such as the subsidy for bags and uniforms for elementary pupils and distribution of Middle East-bred chickens that were actually funded by the education and agriculture departments.

'Black Saturday' (1971)

ECHOES FROM LEYTE



Loly Perez Isiderio

AS I started writing this column, the boy came with my copy of the INQUIRER with the banner headline "BLACK SATURDAY." I thought something that happened about three decades ago recurred. Of course it had not. But the headline started me on a search of an event I had almost forgotten. There was only one on the Net about another Black Saturday—the Plaza Miranda bombing. It was a story by Gemiliano Lopez, who recounted how he had been a part of that carnage.

We called it then Black Saturday, for it happened on Aug. 21, three months before an election. "The bombing 28 years ago of a *miting de avance* at Plaza Miranda in Quiapo," Lopez wrote, "killing eight persons and nearly wiping out the top leadership of the anti-Marcos opposition, comes back to us this Aug. 21 with its lessons apparently dimmed by the mists of time."

At that time, in 1971, we still referred to the Saturday of the Holy Week as *Sabado de Gloria*. Now, after Vatican II, we call it Black Saturday. It is still a day of great mourning for Easter comes in the early morning of Sunday.

Referring to the Plaza Miranda bombing as a Black Saturday implies its devastating effect on the whole country. The reason it is too much in my mind is because this piece will come out on April 21, a Saturday.

But Lopez was right. The lessons of that past day have been dimmed in memory. My children do not even remember that event. Will my grandchildren hear echoes of it? But the times are still troubled. The INQUIRER headline on April 8 had to be played down with the second line stating that "2 blackouts hit all of Luzon; Gloria rules out sabotage."

Even this still strikes fear into us. What if . . .

* * *

ELECTIONS in Tacloban City, as in most other places, are somewhat confusing. Everyone is claiming that the moneyed candidates will be the winners. Then there is the matter of surnames being alike, or of siblings and relatives fighting it out in the same district or province. The Remedios "Matin" Petilla-Catalina "Nene" Loreto-Go standoff has yet to be settled and the petition for disqualification of Carlos Romualdez, who is running for Congress against Trinidad "Ebbie" Apostol, has not yet been settled.

But I have heard that at least in Dulag town in the second district of Leyte, they will go all out for Caloy Romualdez.

Of the Romualdezes, I'm hearing more of them. Word of mouth has it that they will vote for Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez as Tacloban mayor, not so much because it is rumored that he has a lot of money but because he is definitely not corrupt. Truth to tell, I believe this last. I believe, too, that good governance would follow because those who will vote for him will do so on the evidence of what he has accomplished despite all odds.

Mayor Romualdez's son, reelectionist Rep. Alfred Romualdez (1st district) might just make it, too. He and his wife, former actress Cristina Romualdez, and their baby Sofia are such lovely people. With their medical missions and community involvement, they can go far.

As for Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, it is believed that he is definitely not running. It was briefly rumored that his son Martin was going to run for governor, but the rumor just died. They did not even bother to deny it.

Still, there is anticipation of another Kilusang Bagong Lipunan candidate running in lieu of former Babatngon Mayor Jesus Pido, who is ailing but has filed his certificate of candidacy under the KBL.

Making big waves, too, is Cherry Cobarrubias, whose candidacy has been endorsed by the True Marcos Loyalist Association, a party-list group accredited by the Commission on Elections on Feb. 10. Leyte and Samar provinces are considered bailiwicks of the group, and with only two percent of the voting population needed to send a party-list candidate to Congress, Cobarrubias just might make it.

In Rina Jimenez-David's column (PDI, 4/6/01) she gives voters some hints on how to take the party-list system which she feels the Comelec has not taken too seriously. So the voter just tries his or her best.

Estrada's arrest seen next week

(From page A1)

"I think that will be an overkill, and I don't think the former president deserves to be treated in that manner," Perez told reporters at the Royal Mandaya Hotel after speaking before the Mindanao-based staff of the Public Attorney's Office.

Perez expressed confidence that there would be no violence because Estrada, through his lawyers and representatives, had guaranteed that he would voluntarily surrender as soon as he receives the warrant.

Garchitorena said the evidence submitted to the Sandigan's third division was "voluminous" and would have to be discussed in detail.

He ruled out the idea of putting Estrada under house arrest, saying this provision is not contained in Philippine law books.

He said the closest that could come to house arrest would be allowing prisoners to stay in a hospital for health reasons.

Sources in the Sandigan had earlier said that warrants for the arrest of Ilocos Sur officials allegedly involved in the tobacco excise tax scam exposed by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson were being processed for signing by the justices of the third division.

The officials are accused of falsifying public documents to cover up the alleged diversion to Estrada of P130 million from the P200-million tobacco excise tax.

Among those accused in the case are Ilocos Sur Vice Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano, provincial treasurer Antonio Gundran, provincial accountant Carolyn Pilar, provincial budget officer Erlita Arce and general services officer Ernie Mendoza.

The warrants are expected to be served by Sheriff Ed Urieta (not Uriarte, as earlier reported).

Not on weekends

According to Garchitorena, no arrest warrant is issued during weekends unless the subject is a known criminal.

"In (that) case, Sundays might be a good idea to catch him. But we have no such situation here in so far as the warrant from the third division is concerned," he said.

Perez said the government had taken note of the hundreds of Estrada supporters gathered at the North Greenhills gate leading to the ex-president's residence on Polk Street.

"But with the assurance of the former president that he will voluntarily surrender, there is no need to make a show of force," Perez said.

He said he had made the necessary arrangements with the Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies to ensure that the serving of the warrant would be snag-free.

Perez said the Sandigan sheriff, accompanied by members of the PNP, would serve the warrant.

He said the military would be kept out of the operation as it would be a "purely police matter."

But the military is ready for any contingency if violence erupts when Estrada is arrested, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said yesterday in Cagayan de Oro City.

Villanueva said military officials had discussed the security measures with PNP officials.

He declined to say how many AFP units would be deployed, but said these were "adequate" to counter any threats from supporters of the disgraced leader.

"We are ready for any destabilization plot. We have adequate forces," Villanueva said, adding that the PNP would take the primary role once the arrest warrant is issued.

Perez downplayed threats by forces loyal to Estrada that they would hold massive protest actions nationwide in the event of his arrest.

"I don't think so. I think it's more of hot air than significant (action)," Perez said.

He said the government would not allow Estrada to be put under house arrest because the law does not allow it. He said Estrada would be put in the custody of the Sandigan, which would in turn decide where he would be jailed.

'People Power III'

At a news conference in Olongapo City, reelectionist Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago reiterated that she would call for a "People Power III" should Estrada be jailed.

Santiago, a candidate of the Estrada-backed Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa senatorial ticket, claimed that "hardcore" supporters were unwilling to see their idol jailed until there is a final court ruling on his guilt or innocence.

"I'll do my best to precipitate (People Power III). I see that our party president (Edgardo Angara, also an LDP-PnM candidate) is turning pale. But I speak for myself," Santiago said, smiling at Angara.

She added: "If he's jailed, *magaalab ang damdamin ng mga tao* (public sentiment will flare up). There are hardcore Erap supporters who would accept a final (court) judgment. But before that, if they jail Estrada, *magkakagulo* (there will be trouble).

"Recently, pillars of this government called for civil disobedience (to force Estrada to resign). Now, it is I who will call for civil disobedience."

The other LDP-PnM candidates were divided on the issue.

Angara dismissed threats by Estrada's supporters to undertake a mass revolt similar to that which ousted him. He refused to comment on the possibility of such a scenario, saying: "If we agree and it materializes, they might say we are agitating the public. On the other hand, if we don't say anything, they might say we are indifferent.

"Let the judges and the lawyers handle it . . . All of us will be better off if we leave it to the judiciary."

Angara's position reflected earlier statements by his co-candidates Ricardo Puno and Orlando Mercado.

Former first lady Luisa Ejercito, who is herself implicated in a bribery case along with Estrada, and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile did not dismiss a possible pro-Estrada uprising, but did not outrightly call for it.

Asked if her husband's arrest would prompt an uprising, Ejercito said she had nothing to say.

But she pointed out that everywhere the LDP-PnM candidates went, they were greeted with cries of "Erap pa rin!"

She also said her husband's supporters camped out in North Greenhills had refused to leave even though he had already asked them to.

Enrile agreed that an uprising might come about because Estrada's loyalists felt strongly against his imprisonment.

"But I do not want to air my opinions," Enrile said in Filipino. "They might say I'm planning a coup again."

Other candidates on the ticket—Panfilo Lacson, Jamby Madrigal and Ombra Tamano—have refused to speculate on what would happen should Estrada be arrested.

The others—like Noli de Castro, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, former Sen. Santanina Rasul, and former Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Reuben Canoy—have stayed away from LDP-PnM campaign sorties.

Force of the law

In Lucena City, People Power Coalition senatorial candidate Wigberto Tañada said Estrada should face the music.

Tañada said it was important for people to realize that "no one, not even a former president, is above the law."

"No one must be spared the full force of the law, if found guilty of wrongdoing," Tañada said in a statement.

In his weekly press conference, Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople expressed doubt that Estrada, his political ally, would spend time in jail even if the warrant for his arrest were issued by the Sandigan.

"The authorities realize that they are dealing with an explosive situation that could (foment) trouble in the country," he said.

Ople, who serves as adviser of the LDP-PnM, said the Sandiganbayan might instead decide to put Estrada under house arrest.

"The court will have to be satisfied that the accused is subject to its commands to appear without delay when summoned. That is the principal way of controlling an accused whether it's jail or a convenient substitute as house arrest," Ople said. ***With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan; Juliet L. Javellana; Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Delfin T. Mallari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Suspect disowns wife's suit

(From page A1)

Police agents who investigated the circumstances surrounding the filing of the petition said Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, Lancaouan's former superior in the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), provided the lawyer.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Aquino, the former special projects officer of the task force, via cell phone up to last night. He also did not respond to text messages seeking his comment.

Lancaouan said he told his wife that she should not have filed the petition because he was voluntarily cooperating with authorities.

Philippine National Police spokesperson Senior Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia was with the former PAOCTF officer at the news conference.

"I have already told the authorities what I know about the crime," Lancaouan said.

Without the presence of a lawyer, Lancaouan admitted participating in the abduction of Dacer and Corbito but stressed that he was not among those who killed them.

"I was fetched from the house and was told we had an operation. *Isinama ako sa* operation but only up to the Metrobank branch in Dasmariñas, Cavite. I saw the man dressed in white. I did not know it was Dacer until the next day when he was declared missing," Lancaouan said.

Reporters asked De Gracia if the suspect was coerced or even tortured, since he seemed agitated and at times could not hear the questions thrown at him.

Lancaouan opted to answer the question himself, saying he was not under restraint and that no one had harmed him since Monday when he decided to cooperate with authorities and sought protective custody.

"Why would I be restrained? I can move around here. I am safe here because I am inside Camp Crame. Who could possibly harm me here?" Lancaouan said.

After the news conference, to prove that he did not need an escort, he allowed reporters to follow him outside the press office where he held the news conference. He walked alone. At least until he was out of the reporters' sight.

It's fowl play when pigeons fly 'high'

(From page A1)

gave their prized birds substances to make them fly farther and faster.

But the extent of pigeon doping was unclear until Tuesday, when police raided 80 homes of breeders, feed and medicine suppliers throughout Belgium.

Large quantities of medicines and other suspicious products were confiscated but no arrests were made, prosecutor Louis Denecker said Wednesday.

Denecker refused to elaborate. But he said the raid followed an investigation in which analysts found traces of what could be banned chemicals in racing birds.

"There is still this nostalgia for the magical potion," said Jean-Louis Jorissen, the head of the World Pigeon Center, which breeds and trains racing pigeon sold around the globe. He praised the raids, saying some feed distributors do a side business selling hormones and cortisone to make the birds fly stronger. "We have to get rid of them," he said.

Belgians are the world's unrivaled pigeon racers, with 60,000 breeders in this nation of 10 million, many of them passing their secrets from generation to generation.

The pastime requires passion, because the birds need to be nurtured and trained from morning till night, season after season and that in part fuels jealousy and temptation to win at any cost.

The most fancied birds can fetch more than $25,000 and winning one of the classic races can earn similar amounts.

Doping is not the first scandal to tarnish the sport.

When one breeder won race after race a decade ago, it turned out the breeder had found a way to fix the race clock. He was slapped with a long suspension.

Last year, the theft of 36 of the finest birds from one of the country's best performer and the destruction of a slew of eggs holding the next generation of potential champions drew outrage.

All this is bad news for a sport which has seen membership already decline four-fold in half a century, with children preferring to sit in front of a PlayStation game console rather than cleaning a pigeon coop.

The doping controversy only adds to that.

As with doping in professional sports, effective controls are tough. Pigeons can be fed many banned substances which leave no trace in their bodies on race day.

The problem is not limited to Belgium alone. The Netherlands' environment state secretary, Geke Faber, warned earlier this year that some breeders there have resorted to doping, and promised criminal prosecution.

In Belgium, breeders who dope can face a ban from the sport of three years as well as a stained reputation in this closely-knit society. *AP*

Prosecutors grope for 'legal basis'

(From page A1)

"Are you admitting that there is no legal ground? (Are you telling us that the legal ground would be discernible) if we read between the lines?" the court said.

The three justices of the court subsequently directed Micael to amend the manifestation within five days and to cite the legal ground to justify the withdrawal of the case.

Hours earlier, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said state prosecutors were "overprepared" in the legal battle against Estrada.

He said this could account for the blunders they committed at the hearing Thursday, in the course of which they were asked by Sandigan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena to define plunder.

"We were overprepared . . . we were ready," Desierto told the INQUIRER.

He added: "They were asked the definition of plunder . . . You should not ask the prosecutor what plunder means because that is an insult to the prosecutor. They did not answer because it's an insult to them.

"In the College of Law at the University of the Philippines, do you ask what plunder is?"

But Desierto appeared to contradict his own assessment of the prosecutors when he told reporters that he made an appearance at the court "to find out (if they) were not prepared."

"That's why I came here . . . ," he added.

Desierto and his deputy, Margarito Gervacio, attended the morning hearing at the Sandigan's fourth division.

The Ombudsman also attributed the initial snags encountered by the prosecutors to the holidays, the fact that the cases were raffled off to five courts, and "clerical problems."

"We don't expect any more problems," he said.

Different assessment

The Sandigan does not agree with the Ombudsman's assessment of the state prosecutors.

Sought for comment, Garchitorena said: "When somebody in the courtroom doesn't seem to know what it is all about, you get professorial because you have to find out whether they know what they're talking about. Otherwise, technically, we are wasting time."

Garchitorena said it was the state prosecutors who raised the issue of plunder.

When they said that the case they wanted to withdraw would be integrated into the plunder case, he said, the court wanted to know how this would be done.

"If that is a classroom question, you better have a good classroom answer because if you can't even have (that), then somebody didn't study last night," Garchitorena said.

At the morning hearing, Desierto told the court chaired by Justice Narciso Nario that they were trying to evade the charge of "double jeopardy."

He said this was why he wanted the graft case concerning the tobacco excise tax withdrawn from the court.

"We were actually toying with the idea of not filing the charges, but the demands of the evidence required us to file the charges. So we (did)," he said.

Asked why they filed the case if they were anticipating double jeopardy, Desierto said that when they did so, they thought that Estrada's lawyers wanted to speed up the trial.

But recent events showed that this was not so, he said, citing the defense motion asking the Supreme Court to stop the Sandigan from hearing the case to prove his contention.

But the court was unconvinced. It directed the Ombudsman to come up with a new memorandum, which should include the double-jeopardy justification, within five days.

Desierto later said another group, this time to be composed of lawyers from various government agencies, would handle court appearances.

"There's the Ombudsman, the secretary of justice, the solicitor general, the chief state prosecutor, the overall deputy ombudsman. We will have a panel of 12 persons in these cases," he said, adding:

"This is only initial—the withdrawal of a case. Naturally, we are not (always present) here because the withdrawal of information does not really require the presence of all of us."

No consultation

Lawyer Leonard de Vera, spokesperson of the private prosecutors assisting the Office of the Ombudsman, yesterday complained that despite their requests, they were neither consulted nor were the drafts of the criminal information filed with the Sandigan shown to them.

According to De Vera, the private prosecutors had "made it clear to the Ombudsman" that the graft cases to be filed against Estrada should not involve "acts arising out of the same cases already included in the plunder charge."

He said they had pointed this out to Desierto "to avoid a defense of double jeopardy," but that the Ombudsman ignored their suggestion.

"Had we been consulted or listened to by the Ombudsman, these needless errors could have been avoided," De Vera said.

Desierto had earlier claimed that the motion to withdraw five of the eight cases filed against Estrada and 19 others was a tactical move.

In Lingayen, Pangasinan, reelectionist Sen. Franklin Drilon said the state prosecutors deserved the scolding they got from the Sandigan Thursday.

"Maybe they deserve a little jolt once in a while so that they'll prepare better," Drilon, a candidate of the People Power Coalition, told reporters.

Drilon said the prosecutors needed to prepare themselves well because public interest and confidence in the justice system were at stake.

Joker Arroyo, also of the PPC senatorial ticket, said no damage was done in the way Desierto had handled the cases against Estrada, including his decision to withdraw the graft cases.

Arroyo said there was "no universal cry" against the motion to withdraw. He noted that the legal circle was not even debating on it, and that it was only Estrada's lawyers who were "making a big issue" out of it.

"In the final analysis, what the Sandiganbayan will judge is not really procedural flaws but evidence (on the cases), which I keep on repeating is so damaging that it can't be overlooked," Arroyo said. ***With reports from Rocky Nazareno and Christine Avendaño***

No frills, few friends . . .

(From page A1)

Quezon City and in Manila, and later the Asociacion De Damas Filipinas Settlement House in Paco, Manila, where he met with his mother, Doña Mary.

Santiago also shrugged off speculation that some of her fellow candidates were beginning to distance themselves from the indicted former president.

She said all of the senatorial candidates were present at Estrada's birthday dinner.

Her husband, former Interior Undersecretary Narciso "Jun" Santiago, was quoted as saying that the absence of most of the pro-Estrada candidates was a sign that the disgraced leader had lost some supporters.

"I don't think that is accurate," Santiago said when told of her husband's statement.

By way of explanation, she said that some of the candidates may have chosen to stay away during most of Estrada's visits because they did not want to be accused of gift-giving, an illegal campaign act.

Who was there

Among the movie celebrities who dropped at the Polk Street party were Estrada's "best friend," action star Fernando Poe Jr., actor-politicians Rudy Fernandez and Herbert Bautista, Philip Salvador, Lorna Tolentino, Nida Blanca, Eddie Gutierrez and wife Annabelle Rama, and comedienne Tia Pusit.

Former censors board chair Armida Siguion Reyna and her daughter-in-law, screenwriter Bibeth Orteza, were also seen at Polk.

From the business sector, there was "Plastics King" William Gatchalian, Eusebio Tanço, Manny Zamora and Estrada classmates from the Ateneo.

Some members of the Estrada Cabinet came to greet their former boss, namely Angara, Felipe Medalla, Lenny de Jesus, Benjamin Diokno, Rod Reyes, Horacio Morales, Bienvenido Laguesma, Ronaldo Zamora and Ramon Cardenas.

Representatives from the Iglesia ni Kristo also graced the occasion, the source added.

Excuses

Angara did not say why he had not gone along with Estrada to the squatter communities, but the other no-show candidates were quick to make excuses.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said he had intended to go to Taytay but was told by Senate Deputy Majority Leader Sen. Tito Sotto to attend the Senate justice committee hearing on the murders of PR man Bubby Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

He vehemently denied that he was distancing himself from Estrada, stressing that he wanted the public to be the judge of the propriety of his pro-Estrada behavior during the Senate impeachment trial.

Enrile and fellow opposition reelectionist Senators Santiago and Gregorio Honasan voted against the presentation of key evidence against Estrada at the trial, which prompted the opposition to take to the streets.

'Important meeting'

"*Ako, di ako nag-iiwan. Ako, kasama hanggang saan ito* (I don't abandon (my friends). I'll be with him until the end)," said Enrile, who ironically was one of the key Marcos officials who turned against the dictator in 1986 and set off People Power I. Ombra Tamano meanwhile explained that he attended a "very important meeting" Thursday.

"If I thought it was important to the media (that I join Estrada) I would have canceled it. Because I'm a through-and-through supporter of President Estrada because I believe he's innocent (of the plunder charges he faces)," said Tamano.

Former police chief Panfilo "Ping" Lacson was also at the Senate hearing on the Dacer double murder case since former PAOCTF members have owned up to the brutal killings.

Only six of the 13 opposition candidates attended a sortie in Zambales province yesterday—Ejercito, Angara, Enrile, Santiago, Madrigal and Tamano.

6 die in dam project accident

(From page A1)

The victims were working for the Raytheon Ebasco Overseas Ltd. (Reol), the contractor of the San Roque Power Corp. (SRPC), said John Lockwood, the plant's resident manager.

The multi-purpose dam is being built with funds from the Export-Import Bank of Japan.

Police said the four injured passengers survived because their fellow workers broke their fall. A more thorough investigation is under way.

Lockwood said the four men suffered only minor injuries and were sent home. Work has been suspended until Monday at the dam site out of respect for those who died, he said.

He promised that the SRPC would give all possible assistance to the family of the victims.

Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Pangasinan police director, quoting reports from Reol engineers, said the six fatalities were not wearing their body harnesses when the platform tilted to one side.

The six were killed after they hit the cement pavement and steel bars in the surge shaft. A surge shaft absorbs excess water to prevent the dam from overflowing.

Lockwood said they had been using the platform to convey workers and materials to the tunnel for over a year now.

Gov. Victor Agbayani has reactivated Task Force San Roque to investigate the accident. The task force was formed to look into the environmental and employment issues at the construction site.

Police identified the fatalities as Jose Lawagan and David Gumatay, both of Tuba, Benguet; Robert Galutan of Itogon, Benguet; Johnny Peralta of Bauko, Mt. Province; Abraham Ruiz of San Manuel, Pangasinan; and Bernardo Rol of Sariaya, Quezon.

Injured were Lydio Langit of Mapandan, Pangasinan; Israel Bengwayan and Eric Langoy, both of Itogon, Benguet; and Waren Dogui-is of Baguio City.

BOT project

The San Roque Dam is a build-operate-and-transfer project of a consortium of Japanese and American companies.

The project is designed to generate 345 megawatts of electricity, control floods and irrigate 87,000 hectares of farmland.

Started in 1996, the project is more than 50 percent complete. Ibaloi natives in Benguet are opposing the project because they fear their land and livelihood would be destroyed once the dam is completed in 2004.

The dam will be operated by SRPC, a consortium that includes Sithe Energies of the United States and Japan's Marubeni Corp. and Kansai Electric Corp.

Asia's biggest dam

Lockwood said the dam would be the biggest in Asia and the 12th highest rock-filled dam in the world, measuring 200 meters (660 feet) from the riverbed to its crest.

The Philippine government will take over ownership after 25 years under a build-operate-transfer investment plan.

The dam is the third to be built along the Agno River. The two existing dams forced hundreds of indigenous people to relocate.

Earlier plans for a dam in another spot, the Chico Dam, were scrapped in the 1980s after fierce protests by residents. ***With reports from Frank Cimatu and Erwin de la Rosa, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and AP***

Congress no refuge for wrongdoers–SC

(From page A1)

of the Commission on Immigration and Deportation against Santiago, who was then the immigration commissioner.

The employees said Santiago illegally approved the legalization of 32 disqualified foreigners, mostly Chinese nationals.

The Office of the Ombudsman charged her on May 19, 1994 with illegally approving the applications for legalization of the aliens.

On Jan. 25, 1996, when she was already a senator, the Sandiganbayan issued the resolution ordering her suspension.

The resolution was sent to the Senate for enforcement. But Santiago went to the Supreme Court to block the suspension order.

In her petition before the high court, Santiago maintained that as senator she could not be ordered suspended by the Sandiganbayan on the strength of the separation of powers between the legislature and judiciary.

"The Court, nevertheless, deems it appropriate to render this decision for future guidance on the significant issue raised by (Defensor-Santiago)," it said.

The high tribunal said that RA 3019 "does not exclude from its coverage the members of Congress and that, therefore, the Sandiganbayan did not err in thus decreeing the assailed preventive suspension order."

It said the order of suspension by RA 3019 "is distinct from the power of Congress to discipline its own ranks under the Constitution."

"(RA 3019) does not state that the public officer concerned must be suspended only in the office where he is alleged to have committed the acts with which he has been charged," the Supreme Court said.

Santiago said the immigration employees had filed the complaint against her because they "were merely motivated by hatred and a spirit of revenge" after she imposed disciplinary measures against them.

"Ironically, the alien amnesty program, which was the basis for the criminal case, was also the very basis" for the Ramon Magsaysay Award given to me in 1988, Santiago said.

COMEBACK BID ALIVE

Jordan hires old friend

WASHINGTON— Not even Michael Jordan knows if his intense training workouts will be enough to reclaim the top form he desires in order to play again in the National Basketball Association.

The retired Chicago Bulls superstar, now president of basketball operations for the NBA's Washington Wizards, dangled the possibility of a return Thursday here at a news conference where Doug Collins was named the Wizards' new coach.

"At this time I can say to you I'm not playing basketball next season," Jordan said. "But I don't know how I'll feel three months from now. I'll deal with it at that time."

Collins, who coached Jordan at Chicago from 1986 to 1989 before being replaced by Phil Jackson, received some insight about Jordan's possible comeback when they first spoke about the coaching job earlier this month.

"I didn't come here with the idea Michael will be coming back," he said. "All he told me is, 'Doug, I'm working out hard. I don't know what I'm going to do.' I said, 'Either way, I'm taking the job. If you do, it will be great.'

"Michael will only come back if he thinks he can play at the level he wants. If all of a sudden this summer he works out and decided he wants to give it a whirl, he would be welcomed with open arms."

Jordan, 38, repeated his standard line about being 99.9 percent sure he would not return but also joked about a comment Wizards owner Abe Pollin made that he had a "gut feeling" Jordan would return next season.

"Mr. Pollin said he has a gut feeling in his stomach and I can't explain the indigestion he might be feeling three months from now," Jordan said.

Pollin saw the hiring of Collins as a sign his hunch was closer to reality.

"The fact is Michael picked Doug and they are friends. It might improve the chances (of a comeback)," Pollin said.

"There's a chance, but no guarantee, he will come back. If he did, it would be great for the city, great for the franchise and great for the league. But I told him, 'I don't even think you know what you're going to do.'"

As he departed, Jordan was asked about his workouts and added, "Obviously I have been working. Can't you tell? I've been working hard."

Pollin said Jordan has said nothing to change his mind about his comeback, a possibility that might inspire greater season ticket sales for a woeful team that finished 19-63, setting a club record for futility.

Collins, now a television commentator, called rebuilding the Wizards his toughest coaching challenge. The Wizards' fourth full-time coach in three years said Jordan's promised support gave him confidence he would last longer.

"He will be here for a while," Jordan said. "As long as I'm here, he will be here. I promise."

Pistons fire Irvine

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—The Detroit Pistons fired coach George Irvine and his assistants Thursday, hours after the team ended the NBA season 18 games under .500. "This was a very difficult decision for me to make," team president Joe Dumars said in a statement. "I want to thank George and his staff for their hard work and dedication, however at this time, I have decided to make a change." *AP*

Playoffs

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

THE REAL NBA season that is called the playoffs which decide the winner of the Larry O'Brien championship hardware is on.

The Los Angeles Lakers, who were described earlier as the most dysfunctional defending NBA champions in recent history due to the much-publicized Shaquille O'Neal-Kobe Bryant feud and failed Isaiah Rider experiment, are back in the groove.

Phil Jackson's troops enter postseason play as the league's hottest squad, having closed out the regular wars with eight straight wins for an all-time franchise record. (The previous Lakers mark for consecutive wins to end a season was six in 1984-85).

Woe to the other title contenders—take note, San Antonio and Philadelphia—as Shaq and Kobe have apparently buried the hatchet and smoke the peace pipe. Kobe, after being sidelined for nine games during a 10-game stretch between late March and mid-April due to a sprained left ankle, has accepted a secondary offensive role and Shaq (remember he's the reigning NBA MVP) is back as the primary go-to guy.

The scary part of them all is that Shaq has been "decent" (an improvement from his previous "mediocre" stance) from the foul line lately. He sank 159 of 235 free throws in his last 15 assignments (.677) to raise his season clip to .513.

Undoubtedly, the road to this year's NBA championship will have to pass through the Lakers. That is not to say, though, the Lakers themselves don't face a tortuous roadblock in their title-repeat quest.

The Lakers have health problems. Bryant is not fully recovered from an assortment of injuries and two other starters are coming off medical woes—Power forward Horace Grant has tendinitis and point guard Ron Harper is recuperating from left knee surgery last March 21.

Moreover, unlike a year ago when they own the homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs with the NBA's best regular card, the Lakers only placed second overall—East frontrunner Philly and LA have identical 56-26 records but Shaq and company gained the second tiebreaker with a better conference record (the two split their two-game season series)—in the league.

The topnotcher—Midwest Division flagbearer San Antonio—comes from the West. That means the Lakers will have to play the Spurs in a potential West final series without the homecourt edge. That is if they reach that far. In first-round action, El-Ay will still have to take care of slumping but dangerous Portland (which lost 14 of its final 22 games) in a brief best-of-five affair in a rematch of last year's epic West finals.

NGAP PRIDE
Gerry Laguatan shows his trophy after winning the NGAP National Junior Age Group Championship at Wack Wack yesterday. Flanking him are NGAP director Iggy Clavecilla (left) and SP Malbarosa, Wack Wack general manager. ROGER CARPIO

Murakami shines at Southwoods

IN ONE of the most impressive scoring duels in years, former national amateur champion Artemio Murakami and five others submitted under-par rounds in ruling their respective divisions in the recent Manila Southwoods Open.

Murakami, exploiting his familiarity with the course, turned in rounds of 74-65-69 for an eight-under 208, beating first day leader Gregory Laguatan (69-72-76-217) by nine strokes in Class A of the event sponsored by Northwest Airlines.

The circuit moves on to Riviera on April 23-25 for the Chairman's Cup before the RP delegation leaves for the Asian championships in Sarawak, Malaysia.

Rhiz de Roca (boys Class B), Jayvee Agojo (girls Class B), Ton Asistio (boys Class C), Amado Eustaquio (boys Class D) and Joshua Uy (boys Class E) also ruled their respective division with impressive scores.

De Roca's 209 on rounds of 67-70-72 gave him a three-stroke victory over Laurence Negrido (69-74-69); Agojo was a runaway winner with her 72-74-69-215; Asistio nipped Mico Alejandro and Mico Yee in a sudden-death playoff after the three posted similar 210 totals; Eustaquio won by four over John Kier Abdon with his 67-68-66-205 and Uy edged Jobim Carlos by one with his 69-70-74-203 performance.

The other winners of the circuit being held to select the country's representatives to the Junior World in San Diego and Optimist International in Florida this July are Reb Bareng in girls Class A, Geleen Handog in girls Class C, Debbie de Villa in girls Class D and Angelika Erika de Villa in girls Class E.

Jenny 32nd, Miñoza in

JENNY Rosales missed 11 greens but salvaged a one-over-par 73 yesterday to stay tied for 32nd place in the opening round of the Long Drugs Challenge at the Twelve Bridges Golf Club in Lincoln, California.

Rosales, still smarting from her missed cut stint last week in the Office Depot, needed only 25 putts to complete her round made up of one birdie and two bogeys as she fell seven strokes behind leader Se Ri Pak, who fired a 66. Pak held a two-stroke lead over Michelle Redman.

Dorothy Joy Delasin had a bogey-riddled 75 and was in the group tied for 65th spot. She had two birdies against five bogeys.

In Japan, Frankie Miñoza needed a big birdie on the 18th to avoid elimination in the Kirin Open at the Ibaragi Golf Club. *Jong Arcano*

ROSALES

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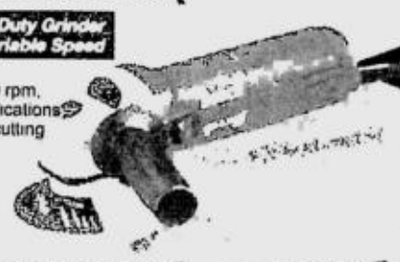

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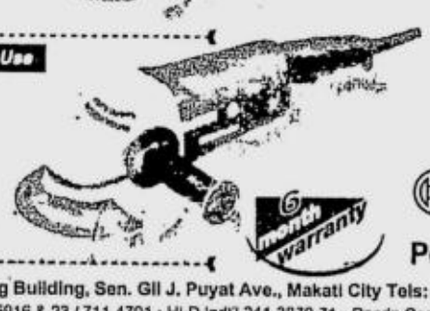

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Prices in provincial areas may be slightly higher. Per DTI NCR Permit # 0081 Series of 2001

SPORTSWATCH

Greenhills I defeats Monte Vista

GREENHILLS I played hot under the scorching summer heat as it scored 278 points behind a remarkable team game to humble Greenhills 2 and defending overall champion Monte Vista at the start of the Alaxan Intervillage East golf series at Wack Wack's east course Thursday. Louie Borromeo fired 38 points and four others dished out identical 35s to underscore Greenhills 1's balanced scoring in the event sponsored by Alaxan. Andy Co, Doming Hernandez, Arthur Reyes and Sonny Go each had 35 points for the team, Honor Mendoza tossed in 34, while Pable Soon and Benito Lim both had 33s as Greenhills 1 built enough cushion heading into the final 18 holes of the elims slated at Valley next month.

Durant, Janzen Shell leaders

THE WOODLANDS—Two-time 2001 US PGA Tour winner Joe Durant, trying to bounce back from a month of disappointment, fired a five-under par 67 to share the lead after one round of the Shell-Houston Open. Durant rolled in six birdie putts from 15 feet or beyond to match two-time US Open winner Lee Janzen for the lead at the 3.4 million-dollar event. "This time last year, if I would have hit like this, I would have probably shot over par," he said. "But I was able to save good pars early in the round and then make a couple of putts that I probably wouldn't have made last year." Durant missed the cut at the Masters and shared 21st at Hilton Head last week, bringing him back to reality after a stunning start. *AFP*

Barretto Trans Sports Show guest

THE COUNTRY'S premier motoring event, Trans Sport Show 2001, not only showcases state-of-the-art car models and other high-end product lines, but also serves as venue for interesting seminar topics. Acclaimed racing champion Angelo Barretto will be among those conducting a seminar for the duration of the car event which officially runs April 21-29 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas center, Mandaluyong City. "Challenging the World" (Racing in Europe) by Angelo Barretto is slated on April 21 and April 22, at 2-3 p.m. at the seminar function room of Megatrade Hall. Barretto will share his experience as the first Filipino and only Asian racing in Europe's demanding International Group Endurance Championship.

BARRETTO

Asingan bikefest to feature champs

FORMER Marlboro Tour champions Warren Davadilla and Victor Espiritu lead the star-studded Asingan bikefest to be held on Sunday in conjunction with the celebration of its town fiesta. Dubbed as the "Engineer Ginez Cycling Classic," the race traverses the eastern part of Pangasinan with an approximate distance of 150 km. Cash prizes and trophies will be awarded to the winners of the event, which will also feature members of the Philippine team and Pangasinan standouts, Jesus A. Garcia Jr. is the race director.

Hingis, Mauresmo on collision course

CHARLESTON, South Carolina—Someone's streak has got to give. Top seed Martina Hingis and No. 7 Amelie Mauresmo both continued runs of success Thursday—Hingis with her 12th straight victory at the Family Circle and Mauresmo with her 16th match win in a row this season. They will meet in Friday's quarterfinals. One player who won't be in the quarterfinals is defending champion Mary Pierce. The sixth seed fell to No. 10 Amy Frazier 7-5, 6-7, 6-4. Hingis, who won this title the last two times she entered in 1997 and 1999, overcame a slow start to stop Iva Majoli 4-6, 6-2, 6-3. Mauresmo defeated No. 11 Lisa Raymond 7-5, 7-5. "She hasn't played that many matches" this year, Hingis said of Mauresmo. "But those she played, she played very well." *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Magic Fingers 2. Star of Arabia 3. Prestige 4. Kontra Todo
Race 2—1. Jhelen 2. Le Voyager 3. Free Magic 4. Snake Dancer
Race 3—1. Yes Sir 2. Lucky El 3. Show Money 4. Queen of D Jungle 5. D Pen Traveller
Race 4—1. Darth Vader 2. Asalto 3. Perfect Gift 4. Call to Action 5. Zip On
Race 5—1. Man of the Hour 2. Inner Wheeler 3. Thunder Fire 4. Seiko Shita 5. Solany Belle
Race 6—1. Kitana 2. With Feeling 3. Letshaveaparty 4. Queen Storm 5. Dressed to Impress
Race 7—1. Brazen Truth 2. Might and Power 3. Brusko
Race 8—1. Ilocandia Slew 2. Speed Goddess 3. Morena 4. Bull Rider 5. Gutmoore
Race 9—1. District Three 2. Sovereignty 3. Lord of All 4. My Indy
Race 10—1. Breakaway Artist 2. Hurry Prince 3. Tiger Eye 4. Water Polo 5. Big Bucks
Race 11—1. Union City Boy 2. Leverage Buyer/Plus Factor 3. Above All 4. Silver Flyer 5. Steel Wheel
Race 12—1. Opening Prospect 2. Pep Up 3. Fortune Maker 4. Winning Post
Race 13—1. Talk to Patsy 2. Great Revelation 3. Bull Run Slew 4. Don Benito 5. The Mailman

NBA First Round Playoff Schedule

(Best-of-5, Manila Time)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
(1) PHILADELPHIA vs. (8) INDIANA
Game 1: Sun., April 22, at Philadelphia (12:30 a.m.)
Game 2: Wed., April 25, at Philadelphia (8 a.m.)
Game 3: Sun., April 29, at Indiana (12:40 a.m.)
*Game 4: Thu., May 3, at Indiana (TBD)
*Game 5: Sat., May 5, at Philadelphia (TBD)
(2) MILWAUKEE vs. (7) ORLANDO
Game 1: Mon., April 23, at Milwaukee (8:30 a.m.)
Game 2: Thu., April 26, at Milwaukee (8 a.m.)
Game 3: Sun., April 29, at Orlando (8:30 a.m.)
*Game 4: Wed., May 2, at Orlando (TBD)
*Game 5: Fri., May 4, at Milwaukee (TBD)
(3) MIAMI vs. (6) CHARLOTTE
Game 1: Sun., April 22, at Miami (8:30 a.m.)
Game 2: Tue., April 24, at Miami (7 a.m.)
Game 3: Sat., April 28, at Charlotte (8 a.m.)
*Game 4: Tue., May 1, at Charlotte (TBD)
*Game 5: Fri., May 4, at Miami (TBD)
(4) NEW YORK vs. (5) TORONTO
Game 1: Mon., April 23, at New York (12:30 a.m.)
Game 2: Fri., April 27, at New York (8 a.m.)
Game 3: Mon., April 30, at Toronto (12:30 a.m.)
*Game 4: Thu., May 3, at Toronto (TBD)
*Game 5: Sat., May 5, at New York (TBD)
WESTERN CONFERENCE
(1) SAN ANTONIO vs. (8) MINNESOTA
Game 1: Sun., April 22, at San Antonio (5:30 a.m.)
Game 2: Tue., April 24, at San Antonio (9:30 a.m.)
Game 3: Sun., April 29, at Minnesota (5:30 a.m.)
*Game 4: Tue., May 1, at Minnesota (TBD)
*Game 5: Fri., May 4, at San Antonio (TBD)
(2) L.A. LAKERS vs. (7) PORTLAND
Game 1: Mon., April 23, at L.A. Lakers (5:30 a.m.)
Game 2: Fri., April 27, at L.A. Lakers (10:30 a.m.)
Game 3: Mon., April 30, at Portland (5:30 a.m.)
*Game 4: Wed., May 2, at Portland (TBD)
*Game 5: Sat., May 5, at L.A. Lakers (TBD)
(3) SACRAMENTO vs. (6) PHOENIX
Game 1: Mon., April 23, at Sacramento (3 a.m.)
Game 2: Thu., April 26, at Sacramento (10:30 a.m.)
Game 3: Mon., April 30, at Phoenix (3 a.m.)
*Game 4: Thu., May 3, at Phoenix (TBD)
*Game 5: Sat., May 5, at Sacramento (TBD)
(4) UTAH vs. (5) DALLAS
Game 1: Sun., April 22, at Utah (3 a.m.)
Game 2: Wed., April 25, at Utah (10:30 a.m.)
Game 3: Sun., April 29, at Dallas (3 a.m.)
*Game 4: Wed., May 2, at Dallas (TBD)
*Game 5: Fri., May 4, at Utah (TBD)
(* If necessary)

De Castro battles Soquino for crown

SECOND seed Jandrick de Castro of La Salle-Greenhills marched into the finals of the boys' 16-under division after pulling off a 3-6, 6-3, 6-0 victory over Michael Basco of Letran yesterday in the Tru-flex National Age Group Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

De Castro shoots for the title at 10 a.m. today against seventh pick Janjie Soquino of Cebu, who scored a 6-1, 6-2 win over No. 8 Julianito Jopla.

In the boys' 14-under class, top seed Mauric Lao of Kalibo, Aklan outclassed Hamza Macapendeg of Cotabato City, 6-1, 6-3, to arrange a titular showdown with third seed Miguel Narvaez of Imus, Cavite, a 6-1, 7-5 winner over Ed Angelo Diez of Davao City.

In the girls' 16-under division, No. 1 Berry Sepulveda of Cebu defeated Katherine Flores, 6-3, 6-1, to advance in the finals against No. 2 Katrina Pamintuan, who survived No. 3 Sherry Rose Ong, 7-5, 7-6 (4).

Gaining championship berths in the girls' 12-under class of this tournament sponsored by PSC, PLDT, Magnolia Fruit Drinks, Mondo, Prince, Toby's and Viva Mineral Water were No. 1 Bambi Zoleta, who defeated No. 4 Jessica Agra, 6-2, 6-1, and No. 2 Melissa Orteza, a 6-2, 6-2 winner over Jin Querubin.

Hilario Caliraya champion

PENG Hilario topped the recent Caliraya Windsurfing Fleet Commodore's Cup tournament at Caliraya Lake. George Villacorte was second overall and Voight Asuncion second in slalom. Danny Viceo placed third in the Open category and Joseph Monzon third in slalom. Bo Espiritu was given a special award.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Ewald Selph Cup tomorrow

THE EWALD Selph Cup will be held tomorrow at the east field of the Manila Polo Club with two matches on tap starting at 2:30 p.m. Sponsor of the event is the Ortega, Del Castillo, Bacorro, Odulio, Calma & Carbonell Law Firm, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary. After the awarding ceremonies, cocktails will follow at 6 p.m. For details, call Letty, Emmy or Menchu at 818-2321 to 25.

MOBILINE, PUREFOODS OUSTED

Shell, Ginebra barge into PBA semis

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:15 p.m. – Alaska vs Purefoods
6:30 p.m. – SMB vs Red Bull

ENOUGH already.

Shell Velocity, the elimination topnotcher, finally got fed up with Mobiline's pretensions last night, scoring an emphatic 80-69 win to claim a PBA All-Filipino Cup semifinal berth at Philsports.

In disposing of the team that blunted their twice-to-beat edge last Sunday (76-72), the Turbochargers whipped up a Gerry Esplana-led offense backstopped by a tyrannical defense to eliminate the Phone Pals.

Later, rookie Ronald Magtulis made the shot of his life as Ginebra repeated over Purefoods, 70-69, and joined Shell in the semifinals. Noy Castillo drilled a three-pointer as Purefoods took a 69-68 lead, 8.6 seconds left.

Bal David missed a layup but Magtulis came from nowhere, shocking the Hotdogs with a fallaway jumper, 1.7 ticks left.

The win also ended Shell's three-game losing run.

Ronquillo berated his wards after Sunday's lackluster performance, an attitude branded by Ronquillo as a "prima donna attitude."

Last night, the Turbochargers returned to their workmanlike demeanor.

"When push came to shove, we delivered," said Ronquillo, who sprained his left ankle on the way to the press room for the post-game interview.

SHELL 80 –Walnwright 27, Esplana 16, Telan 12, Singson 10, Paras 6, Jackson 5, Hrabak 3, marzan 1, Dualan 0.
MOBILINE 69 – Pablo 26, Camaso 13, Ejercito 12, Demape 9, Ravena 3, Codinera 2, Gonzales 2, Fran 2, Cui 0, Angeles 0, Babilonia 0.
Quarters: 27-19, 40-37, 61-50, 80-69.

Shark seeks 6th straight win

STANDINGS

	W	L		W	L
Shark	5	0	PharmaQuick	2	3
Ana	4	1	Ateneo	1	2
GIV	2	2	Hapee	1	3
Montaña	2	2	Osaka	0	3
Welcoat	2	3			

GAMES TODAY PYBL
(Makati Coliseum)
9 a.m.—Univ. of Assumption vs Gringo
10:45 a.m.—Boysen-MLQU vs Super Oil

CHAIRMAN'S CUP
2 p.m.—Ana Freezer vs Osaka Iridology
4 p.m.—Ateneo-Pioneer vs Shark Energy

BY DENNIS U. EROA

LEADER Shark Energy Drink and surprising Ana Freezer hope to keep their frontrunning positions when they tackle the "collegiate spirit" today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Shark guns for its sixth win in a row as it clashes with Ateneo-Pioneer at 4 p.m., while Ana eyes its fifth win against the La Salle-powered Osaka Iridology in the .2 p.m. opener.

"Ateneo is a highly determined team. We cannot afford to treat this game lightly," said Shark coach Leo Austria.

Ana mentor Rudy Mendoza agreed with Austria."Like Ateneo, Osaka is a fighting team. We're extra-cautious in our approach. The rah-rah spirit is around."

Mendoza is actually looking for his fourth straight win since taking over the Ana coaching chores.

The leaders have different styles.

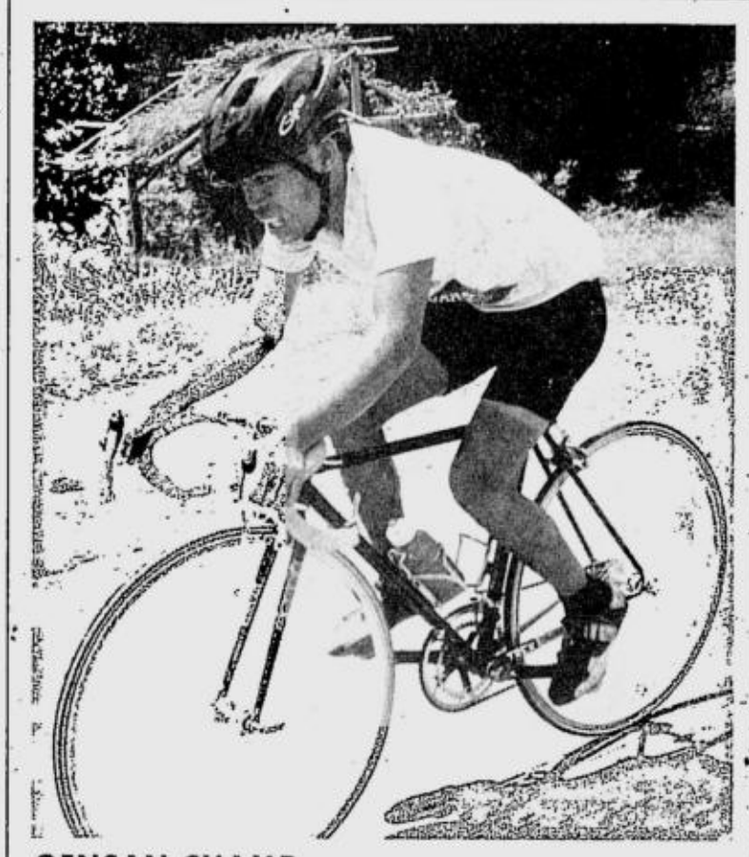
While Shark likes to play according to the numbers, Ana is fast shaping up as the league's best run-and-gun team.

Power of 3 on April 29

THE JOLLIBEE Power of 3 North Luzon Basketball Challenge kicks off its 9-leg tournament this weekend with Cagayan on April 29 and Nueva Ecija on May 1 as its first two host provinces.

Twelve teams from Cagayan will battle it out for the area championship at the Jollibee Tanza Junction parking lot while 10 teams will see action at the Jollibee Circumferential Road outlet for the Nueva Ecija championship. Champion teams will receive individual medals and prizes from Jollibee.

ThemeWorks Events Company, headed by Miguel A. Miñana, has left no stone unturned to ensure the success of this tournament. The whole-day event will start with an opening ceremony at 10 a.m. The mayors of the respective cities, church leaders, youth representatives as well as other special guests have been invited to grace the occasion. Entertainment from the different areas will add luster and local color to the festivities.



GENSAN CHAMP
Glenn Yap of Davao is a picutre of intense concentration as he pedals his way to victory in the General Santos leg of the Rexona Fiesta Bisikleta Challenge. Yap advanced to the Tour of Luzon in December. Yap beat entries from Marbel, Davao, Cotabato, General Santos and Cagayan De Oro.

Nestea Beach volley on in Boracay

BY JUNE NAVARRO

BORACAY ISLAND—Defending champion San Sebastian College opens defense of its women's crown today in the 5th Nestea Beach Volleyball University Challenge here.

With three neophyte but unpredictable pairs out to steal the crown, Sheryl Tumayao and Jennifer Buhawe shouldn't play complacent to get easy access to the finals, which will be held tomorrow afternoon.

Challenging Buhawe and Tumayao are qualifiers from the University of St. La Salle, South Western University-Cebu and Foundation University in the event sponsored by Speedo, Asian Spirit, Mikasa, Milo, Nescafe Frothe, Boracay Resorts Galaxy, Club 10, Titay's South Beach Resort and Alyssa Resort, Caribo, Gorio's Café Breton and Floremar Pizzeria Da Mario Ristorante Italiano.

They represented the country in the 2nd Nestea Beach Volley Asian Women's Championships last month.

Peñalosa defends crown vs Japanese

PEÑALOSA

WBC International super flyweight champion Gerry Peñalosa defends his crown against former world junior light flyweight champion Keiji Yamaguchi on May 5 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Rudy Salud, Peñalosa's manager, said the card is a major step in reviving the glory days of boxing which happened during the days of the late Gabriel 'Flash' Elorde.

"If we continue to promote exciting fights, we'll be on the way to bringing back the glory days," Salud said.

Well-known nutritionist Dr. Sanirose Orbeta said Peñalosa has recovered his terrific form since losing his rematch against In Joo Choo in January. Peñalosa won his last two bouts. Also featured in the blockbuster card are former WBA minimum weight titleholder Joma Gamboa and unbeaten Philippine super featherweight titlist Randy Suico.

Peñalosa needs to beat Yamaguchi, nicknamed the Prince, to earn a crack at the winner of the May 20 title fight between Masamori Tokuyama and In Joo Choo.

Yamaguchi vowed to avenge the defeat of compatriot and Japanese legend Hiroshi Kawashima to Peñalosa. Peñalosa won the world title after beating Kawashima in 1997.

Yamaguchi, who adopted the monicker The Prince from his idol Naseem Hamed, is not an easy prey. He has a 29-6-1 record, with 11 KOs. Yamaguchi also had beaten twelve Filipinos including Nolita Cabato, Lee Escobido, Rudy Idaho, Texas 'Mug' Gomez and Marlon Carillo.

Petron GP this weekend

THE 2001 Petron Grand Prix resumes this weekend at the vastly improved Subic International Raceway with Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA and Ferdie Ong of Rota-Speedwelle-Outlast favored to extend their dominance in the Blaze super saloon category.

Ramirez and Ong dominated the season-opening rounds last April 7-8 despite the presence of several equally talented drivers eager to stamp their class in this prestigious series being organized by the Sports Values Inc. (SVI) for the eighth straight year.

Ramirez, the oldest of four sons of multi-awarded race driver Pocholo Ramirez, drew first blood with impressive victory over Nilo Pazcoguin of Tom's-Auto Trend and Mike Aguilar of Caltex in the first round.

Torre sounds alarm

BY DENNIS U. EROA

GRANDMASTER Eugene Torre, president of the organizing National Chess Federation of the Philippines, yesterday admitted his group was still scrounging for money needed for the hosting of the Asian Zonal Chess Championship (Zone 3.2a).

The series starts on April 23 at the Grand Boulevard Hotel.

"We are committed to host the event. When I think of the honor and prestige this event can bring to the country, I tend to ignore the risks or gambles on the financial aspect," Torre said in yesterday's SCOOP sa Kamayan on West Avenue.

With Torre at the forum was lawyer Sammy Estimo, NCFP executive director.

The NCFP had already requested Malacañang for P2 million for the week-long event featuring Asia's best chessers. Malacañang had yet to act on the request.

This is the second time that Malacañang hasn't acted fast to a financial request by a chesser. The Office of the Presidential Management Staff is also sitting on the request of young woman IM Arianne Caoili for financial help to pursue her GM bid.

"We don't want to be caught flat-footed. We're appealing to President Macapagal-Arroyo for the immediate release of our financial request," said Torre.

The event serves as qualifying for the World Chess Olympiad.

Meantime, a powerhouse team from Mongolia and teams from Malaysia, Hong Kong and Brunei are the latest additions in the tournament.

Indonesia and Vietnam bannered by last year's Zonal winner GM Dao Thien Thai have already confirmed their participation.

Milo Checkmate listing

ENROLLMENT is on for the next special series of Milo Checkmate clinic at the Badminton Bldg., Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC), Vito Cruz, Manila; 2F Center Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center (GSC); St. Jude Academy (SJA), Malinta, Valenzuela City; St. Mary Montessori (SMM), Banga, Meycauayan; CSI Mall, Dagupan City and Magic Mall, Urdaneta City. Open to young kids who are 5 years old and above, the clinic covers seven-day chess lectures and a two-day tournament. For more details, call 0919-8381-190, 075-542-4554, 0919-832-5417 and 826-8560.

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4. Winners must claim their prize at the H.A.S. Main Office at G/F Strata 2000, Emerald Ave., Pasig City. Prizes not claimed after 60 days will be forfeited without further notice.
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

3 men arrested for beheading

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE CENTRAL Police District has reportedly arrested three policemen in connection with the killing of three young men who were found headless in Quezon City Monday night.

A police source close to the investigation told the Inquirer yesterday that the CPD's Criminal Investigation Unit already has in its custody three policemen said to be involved in the killings.

The source, however, declined to reveal the identities of the arrested men or to confirm if they were CPD members.

3 MEN ARRESTED/ A20

Head, limbs of chop-chop woman found

BY JEROME ANING

THE OTHER body parts of an unidentified woman whose mutilated torso was found in the Pasig River in Quiapo, Manila on Thursday morning have been recovered.

A brown cardboard box that contained the head and the limbs of the victim was found also floating in the river by residents near the Department of Public Works and Highways pumping station on Carlos Palanca Street in the Islamic Center in Quiapo at 3:45 p.m. Thursday.

Residents noticed flies swarming all over the box, which was tied with a yellow nylon cord. The residents called police.

About seven hours earlier, the woman's torso, which was chopped into three parts, was also found floating in the river near Muelle dela Quinta Street.

SPO3 Ernesto Jose Jr. of the city police's homicide section said the head and the limbs were first

HEAD, LIMBS/ A20

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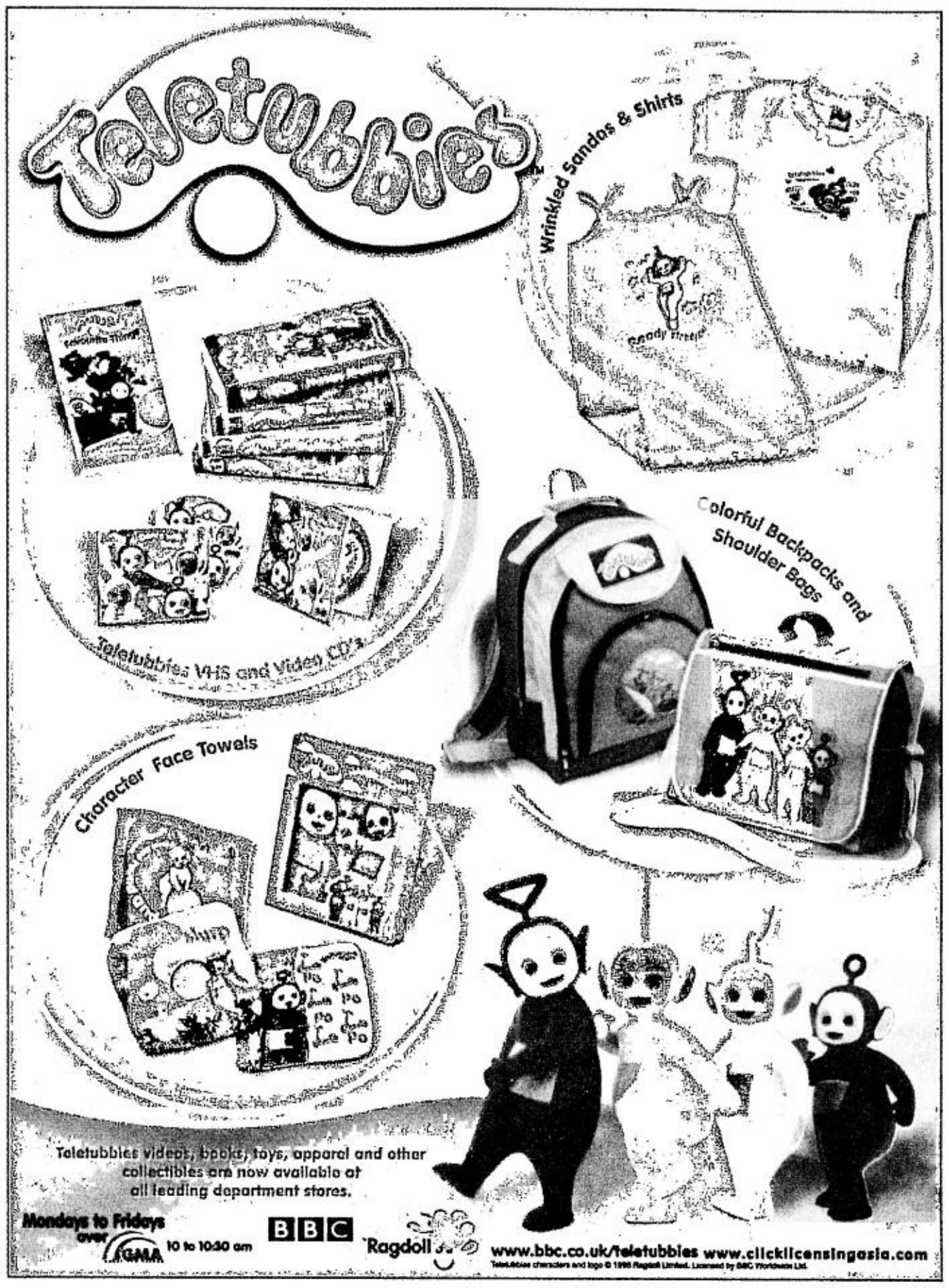
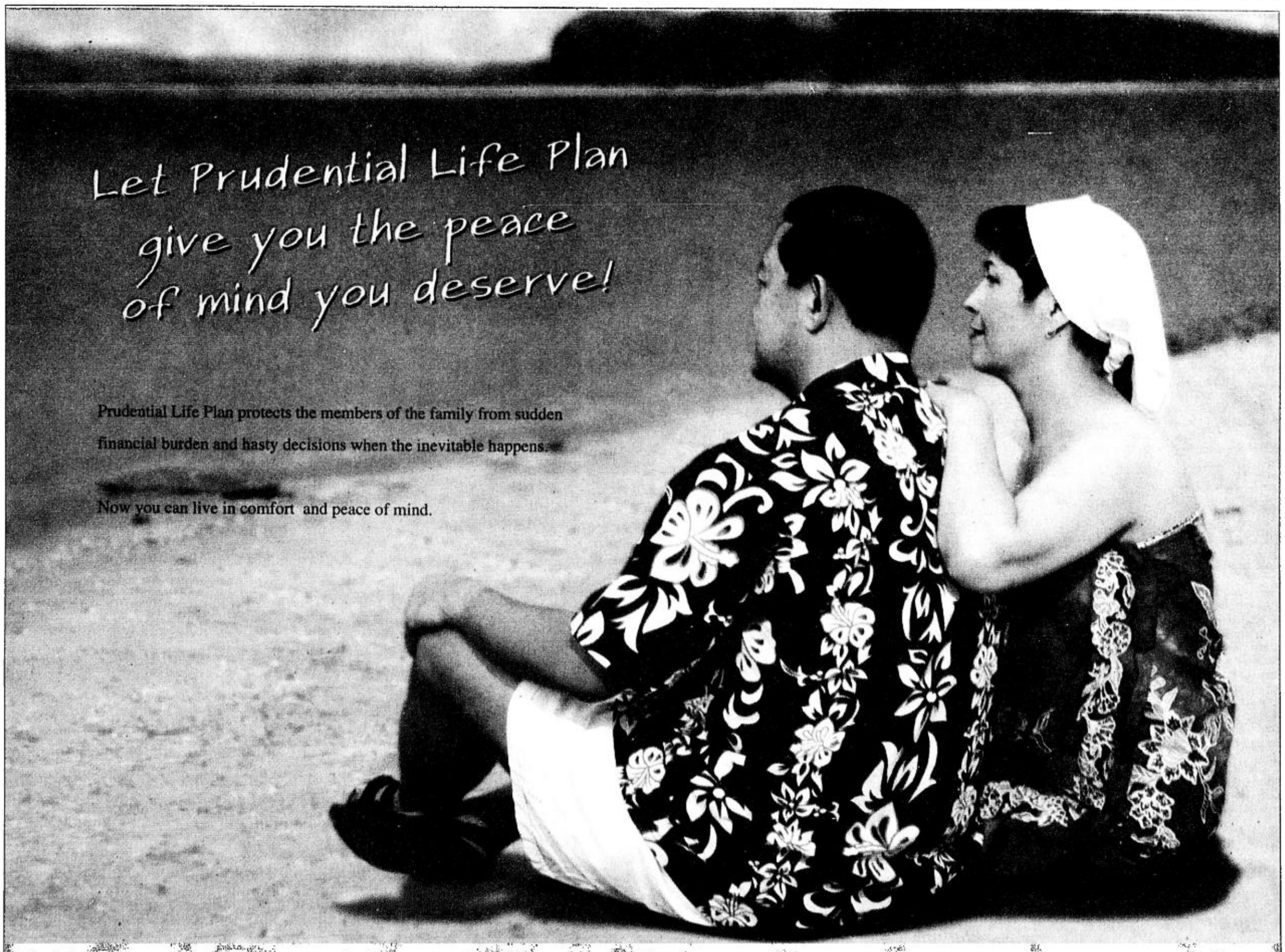




Malabon too poor to be a city, says Comelec official

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

TODAY, residents of Malabon would vote in a plebiscite whether they want cityhood or not for their town.

But a Commission on Elections official yesterday said the plebiscite might fail since residents believe flood-prone Malabon is too poor to be declared a city.

Reports reaching election officer Armando Mallorca showed squatters have taken streamers intended to promote today's plebiscite to use them as blankets.

"The squatters are too poor to think about Malabon's cityhood," he said in Filipino. "They want a city plan for the flood problem, not cityhood."

The local government, however, has been pushing for Malabon's cityhood, which would increase the town's internal revenue allotment from the national government from P167 million to P400 million.

The amount would hasten the delivery of basic services since at least P10 million would be allotted for education, scholarship, health, and other programs, according to Mayor Amado Vicencio.

President Macapagal signed on March 5 Republic Act No. 9019 providing for the declaration of Malabon as a city. It was filed by Malabon-Navotas Rep. Ricky Sandoval.

The plebiscite is the last requirement for cityhood.

If the plebiscite fails, Mallorca said, the local government should be blamed for failing to inform residents about the plebiscite.

Opposition Councilor Edilberto Torres yesterday also rejected the proposed cityhood, saying "local officials should focus on the flood problem."

"There's no point in declaring Malabon a city if it's under water," he said in Filipino. "The flood problem should be the priority."

'BUKAS-KOTSE' MAN
Noreil Flores, 34, shows policemen and photographers how he opens cars using only a length of wire. Policemen from the Central Police District said they caught Flores yesterday in the act of opening another car in Quezon City. ERNIE SARMIENTO

3 men arrested . . .

(From page A19)

"This is a sensitive investigation," the source said. "We don't want anyone to escape. We want all those responsible for these gruesome murders arrested.

"The district will reveal their identities once the investigation is complete. We are also still trying to confirm if the beheadings had something to do with illegal drugs."

But when asked for the names of the suspects, Senior Supt. Rudy Jaraza, homicide section chief of the CPD-CIU, denied that his men had the suspects in their custody.

"That's not true," Jaraza said. "We have not arrested anyone involved in this case."

He added that the two other headless victims remain unidentified, while all the victims' heads remain missing.

Jaraza told the Inquirer on Thursday that the suspects would be arrested yesterday.

CIU policemen are still hunting down the "civilian suspects" in the case as of yesterday afternoon, the source said.

The police source said CPD officials are also waiting for the go-signal of PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza before they could present the suspects.

The suspects were allegedly taken to Camp Crame yesterday afternoon but were returned to Camp Karingal in Sikatuna, Quezon City about 4 p.m. when the planned press conference allegedly did not take place.

The source added that CPD officials were also coordinating with the National Bureau of Investigation, which allegedly has five witnesses in its custody.

The police source said that the CIU also has in its custody the van which the suspects supposedly used to abduct the three young men.

Many were shocked after motorists found the bodies of three headless youths on Mindanao Avenue in Novaliches, Quezon City on Monday at about 8:30 p.m.

One of the victims was identified the next day as fresh high school graduate Kenny W. Azana. His relatives told investigators he had been missing for a week.

Head, limbs . . .

(From page A19)

wrapped in a black plastic garbage bag before they were placed in the box.

The hair on the bloated head had dyed blonde streaks, police said. The victim's fingernails were polished. SPO3 Jose said the woman wore a ring which indicated that she was married.

From the reassembled body, the investigator placed the woman's age to be between 25 and 30 years. She was about 5-foot-3 and fair-complexioned. Investigators also found "Bead" or "Baed" tattooed on her left buttock.

The victim was wearing a striped blouse with spaghetti straps, black brassiere and beige bikini panties.

SPO3 Jose said that based on the body's state of decomposition, the victim was probably killed three to four days before it was dumped. The area of the Pasig River near the dumping station, were the Estero de Quiapo flows into the river, is a favorite dumping place for dead women believed to be salvage victims. Two women were lifted from the water by the station's silt conveyor late last year.

The other side of Ping Lacson

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE RATINGS of senatorial candidate Panfilo "Ping" Lacson in the surveys will go down further with the news that his men in the defunct elite police unit were involved in the abduction and murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer.

Latest surveys showed Lacson has gone down to No. 14 from No. 7. His chances of becoming a senator dim by the day.

* * *

Voters who still think highly of Lacson should be made aware of the dangers of electing to the Senate a man who has a double, Mr. Jekyll-Dr. Hyde personality.

Lacson projected himself as the most honest chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP). He never stole a centavo from the coffers of the organization. He didn't receive a single centavo from *jueteng*, the illegal numbers game.

However, according to reports now surfacing about him, Lacson's men engaged in kidnapping for ransom, drug trafficking and murder. The crime that did them in was the abduction and murder of Bubby Dacer.

* * *

A former female agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), which Lacson headed in a concurrent capacity, has detailed the crimes that Lacson and his men committed.

But only a few people believed the revelations of the former "Mata Hari," code-named Rosebud, because they thought she manufactured lies against PAOCTF out of spite. She is the estranged girlfriend of one of Lacson's men.

It now turns out she was telling the truth. Dacer's abduction and kidnapping was an eye-opener.

* * *

I was a great admirer of Lacson until the Dacer abduction-murder came to the surface.

If I ever criticized anything about the youngish-looking, 53-year-old, 1971 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in this corner, it was his management style. He played favorites among his subordinates. He concentrated on running PAOCTF, a special unit within the PNP, to the detriment of the whole organization. I criticized him for making a doormat out of his predecessor at the PNP, Roberto Lastimoso.

But such criticisms were more to call attention to what I considered then minor faults or quirk of character. To me, Lacson was the best thing that ever happened to the Philippine National Police. He was apparently efficient and dedicated in going after criminals. He was apparently honest, in so far as not accepting bribes from *jueteng* lords and not dipping into PNP coffers were concerned.

I was ignorant of the other side of Lacson. He insisted on heading **PAOCTF, an organization parallel to the PNP, because, it now turns out, he was running it like a Mafia.**

* * *

Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation says the suspects in the Dacer abduction-murder case now in NBI custody haven't mentioned Lacson as the mastermind.

Wait till the investigation is finished. The suspects will start talking.

If you watched the TV news where the suspects in the case were presented to the media, you should have seen the scared look of one of them, SPO4 Mariano Soberano, when he was asked by reporters who was the mastermind.

Soberano, a Caviteno like Lacson, has been described as a tough guy. Who was he afraid of?

* * *

A Navy officer, whom I wrote about 17 years ago, had the ironic fate of having his penalty increased seven-fold by the Supreme Court.

In 1989, the Regional Trial Court of Makati found that there was "incomplete" self-defense in the homicide case against Capt. Eladio Tangan. Tangan was mauled by the victim, Generoso Miranda and his uncle, Manuel Miranda who, records say, rammed the Navy officer's car. Tangan got his gun from the car when the two ganged up on him. They grappled for the gun until it went off. The lower court credited Tangan with the mitigating circumstance of lack of provocation and of passion and obfuscation.

Still, the court said, Tangan should not have used his gun. He was sentenced to a maximum of two years and four months, which he had already served fully with his preventive detention.

* * *

On appeal, the Supreme Court disregarded the findings of the lower court and the Court of Appeals that indicated Tangan as having been attacked by the Mirandas before the shooting. The high court said there was no unlawful aggression on the part of the victims.

The high court convicted Tangan of homicide without mitigating circumstances and raised the penalty to a maximum of 14 years and 18 months in prison.

Tangan's friends and former classmates at the Philippine Military Academy are aghast at the high court's ruling. Apparently, they said, the Supreme Court justice who penned the decision did not read the records of the case because if he did, he could have seen that the findings of the lower court were based on hard evidence.

* * *

Some lawyers say that under our legal system, all questions of facts are decided by the lower courts and the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court decides on the questions of law.

In this case, the lawyers say, the high court disregarded the system in order to impose a higher penalty.

But Tangan's case is not unique, according to my lawyer friends. Some justices will change facts at will, completely ignoring all the records, to reach a legal decision. The other justices who concur in the decision did so without reading the records of the case.

Earth Day picnic

THE SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Arroceros Forest Park, Manila's only urban forest, will celebrate Earth today, 2-5 p.m., with a host of activities called "Picnic in the Forest Park."

Renowned pressed flower artist and author Penny Velasco will tell the story of her children's book "Are You the Forest King?" at 2:30 p.m.

The first 30 children to sign up for the free storytelling session will receive a gift.

The Saturday Group of artists will share their time and talents with an on-the-spot painting session of nature scenes. Children and amateur painters are invited to interact with the artists. They can also bring their own painting materials.

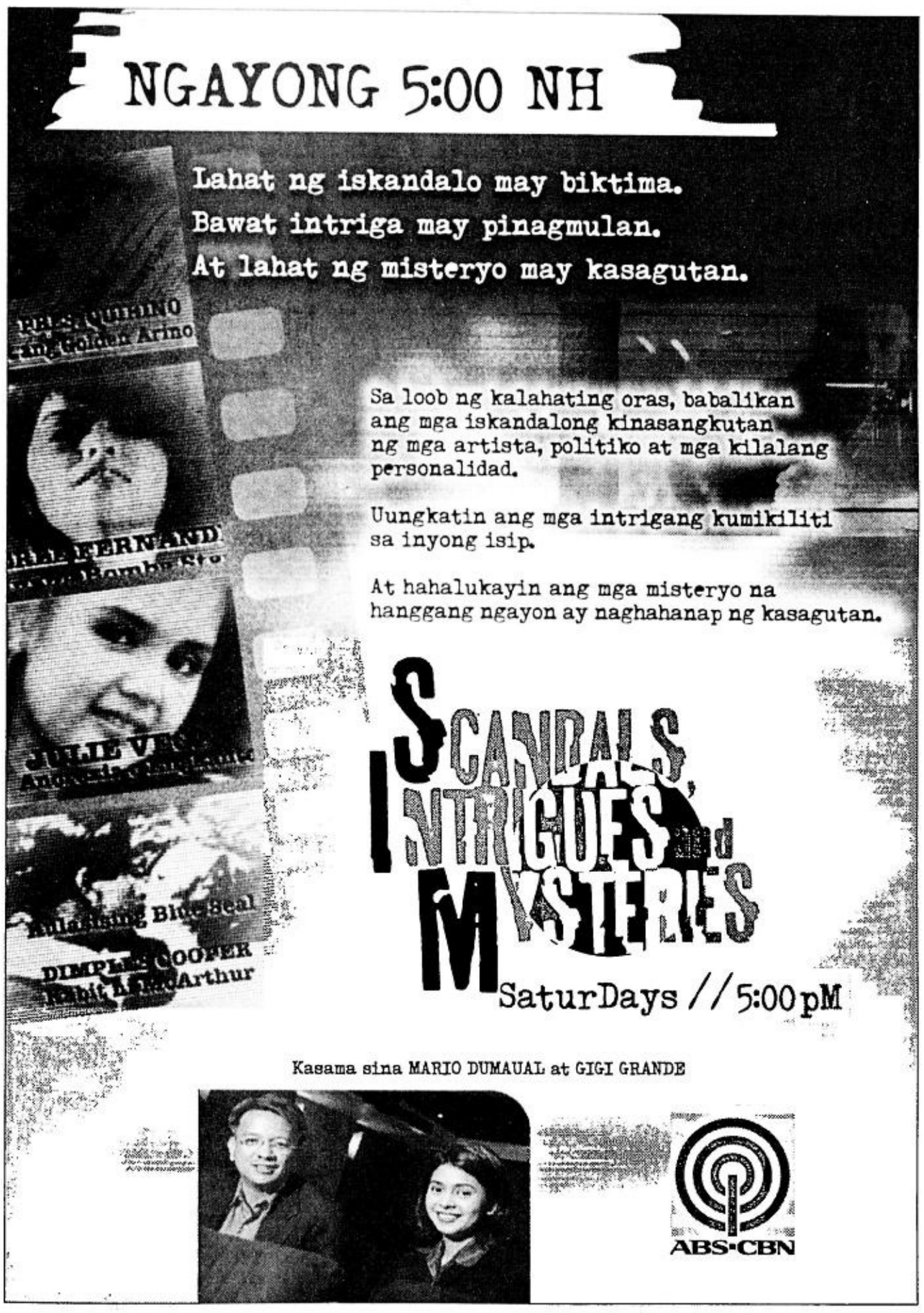
'One Divine Evening' at San Beda

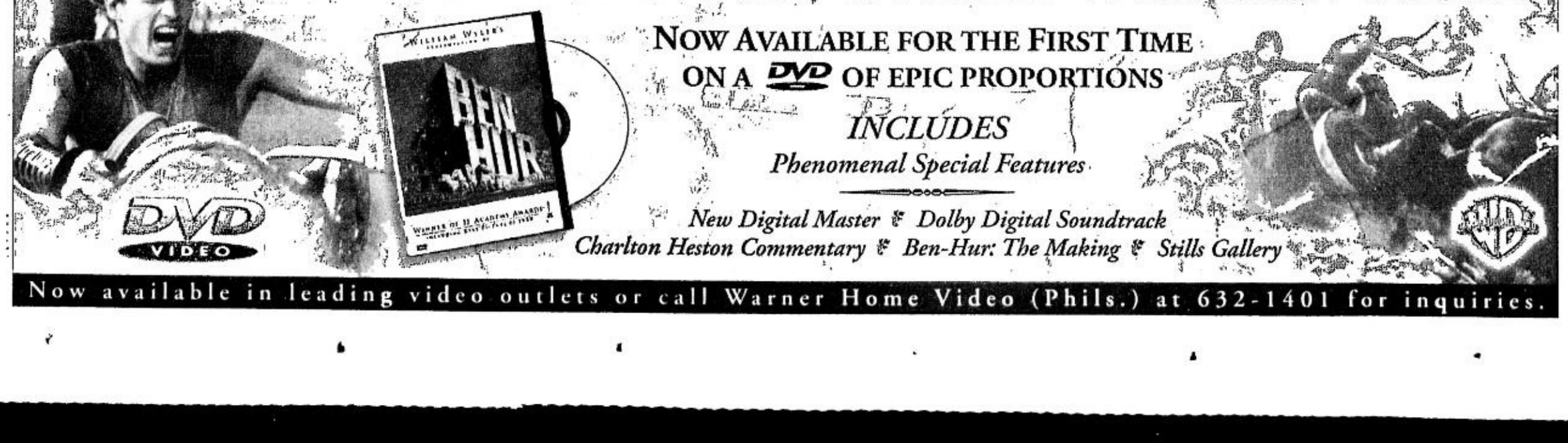
THE ABBEY Church of Our Lady of Montserrat will host a special performance of the Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club in "One Divine Evening" at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 28.

The Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club will be performing under the musical direction of their principal conductor, Prof. Joel Navarro, with Jonathan Velasco as guest conductor and Ma. Rosario Elegado as assistant conductor.

"One Divine Evening" will also feature the San Beda High School Glee Club and Alumni with their pipe organist, Fr. Manuel Maramba, OSB.

For more details, call Ana Cayabyab at NBC Entertainment, 882-1622 local 196.





Gasoline boy shot while chasing QC drugstore robber

By Philip C. Tubeza

GASOLINE boy Demetrio Espinosa tried to be hero Thursday night and went after an armed robber who held up a drugstore in Quezon City.

But the suspect shot him and was able to escape.

Still, the would-be hero's coworkers at the Petron gas station on New York Street near the corner of E. Rodriguez Boulevard are proud of Espinosa for trying to catch the unidentified suspect who robbed the Carlos Super Drug at 447 New York Street in Barangay Immaculate Concepcion, said investigator SPO4 Edmund Senido.

The suspect robbed the drugstore of P14,000 in cash and took the .357 magnum pistol service firearm of the drug's security guard, Joel Rebagos, 20, of the Organic Security and Detective Agency, Senido added.

He said Rebagos was manning his post inside the drugstore when the lone robber struck at 8:10 p.m. Thursday.

Moments after the robber got in, he surprised other customers and the drugstore employees when he took out a 9 mm. pistol and poked it at Rebagos, Senido said.,

The suspect then took the security guard's service firearm. He proceeded to the cashier and took the drugstore's earnings for that day, the investigator said.

But unknown to the suspect, Espinosa saw, through the drugstore window, what was happening inside.

Once the robber had taken the money from the cashier, he went out and started to run away.

Espinosa, however, ran after him. The robber noticed him and shot him, police said.

Espinosa was hit in the stomach.

Senido said the gasoline boy was brought to a nearby hospital while the police interviewed witnesses to get a description of the suspect.

HOLDUP TRIO FALLS

Chief Inspector Anthony Rodolfo presents to media people three men who were caught robbing a native of Punjab, India in Balintawak, Quezon City. The three suspects, who were armed with ice picks and improvised knives, usually preyed on Indian nationals, police said.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

Couple sells 2 maids

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWO housemaids aged 15 and 13 years old accused their employers of selling them to two men who forced them to have sex in Caloocan City early this week.

Police filed white slavery charges against Pien Piendo Lu, 45, and his live-in partner Anita Payag, 31, both of 78 11th Ave., Caloocan.

The Caloocan Prosecutor's Office recommended no bail for the temporary release of Pien, who was arrested on Thursday night on 2nd Avenue, Caloocan. Payag remains at large.

The couple allegedly invited the girls to eat in a restaurant Monday night, according to the report of PO3 Marisa Amajan of the Women's and Children's Concerned Desk.

The couple, however, brought the girls to Anito Hotel on Edsa in Caloocan.

They then forced the 13-year-old to enter a room where an unidentified man was waiting, police said.

The other girl was dragged into another room and was forced to drink bottles of beer, police said.

She then fell asleep but woke up naked with Pien and another man inside the room.

The 15-year-old told police that she ran to the room where the other girl was brought. Both girls returned to Pien's house at about 10 a.m. the following day to get their belongings.

The victims, who had been staying with the suspects as housemaids since Holy Week, were raped, according to investigation.

A police team led by Women's Desk chief Insp. Virginia Tejuco arrested Pien on Thursday night while he was on board his Mercedes Benz (AJH-365).

Police are still looking for Payag.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, April 21, 2001
Octave of Easter

1st Reading: *Acts 4:13-21*

Gospel: *Mk 16:9-15*

After Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary of Magdala from whom he had driven out seven demons. She went and reported the news to his followers, who were now mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he lived and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

After this he showed himself in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. These men too went back and told the others, but they did not believe them.

Later Jesus showed himself to the Eleven while they were at table. He reproached them for their unbelief and stubbornness in refusing to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

Then he told them, "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation."

Commentary:

"Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation." Which good news? As already said, God is unconditional love for us in Jesus the Messiah. The apostles and we are made of the same stuff—stubborn of heart and slow to believe. Some of us might have been like them—male chauvinists, despising the "tale" of the first apostolic witness of the Risen Jesus—Mary of Magdala. But the Lord did not give up on them. They were sent to proclaim the good news. He does not give up on us either. Though we do not deserve to be Christian disciples in the immense ocean of other religious men and women in this huge Asian continent, do we have any other choice to be consistent with our calling? The call to be of God's reign demands of us a renewed conversion to the Lord and a proclamation of his good news through more Christlike deeds.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (COMPLEX CRIMES)—Robbery with homicide—The prosecution amply established the following elements of robbery with homicide: (a) the taking of personal property is perpetrated by means of violence or intimidation against a person; (b) the property taken belongs to another, (c) the taking is characterized by intent to gain or *animus lucrandi*, and (d) on the occasion of the robbery or by reason thereof, the crime of homicide, in its genuine sense, is committed. It matters not that the victim was killed prior to the taking of the personal properties of the victim and the other occupants of the house. What is essential is that there be a direct relation and intimate connection between robbery and the killing, whether the latter be prior or subsequent to the former or whether both crimes be committed at the same time. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Quisumbing, People v. Cando, G.R. No. 128114, October 25, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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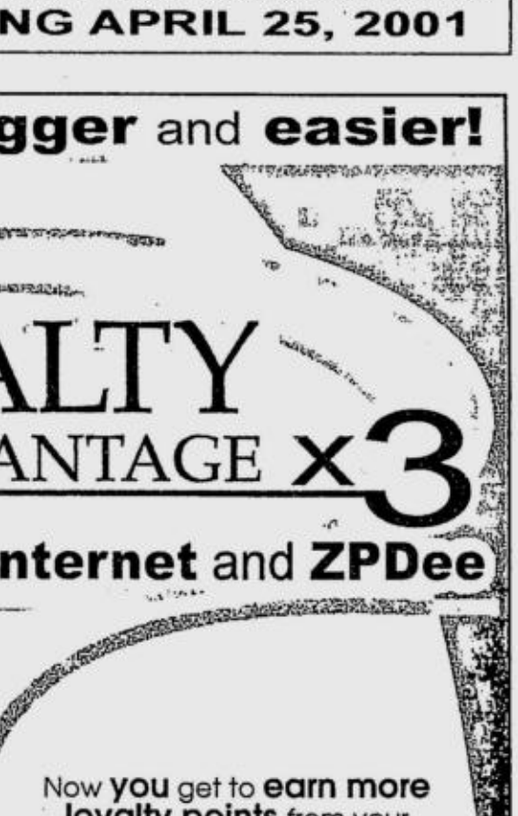

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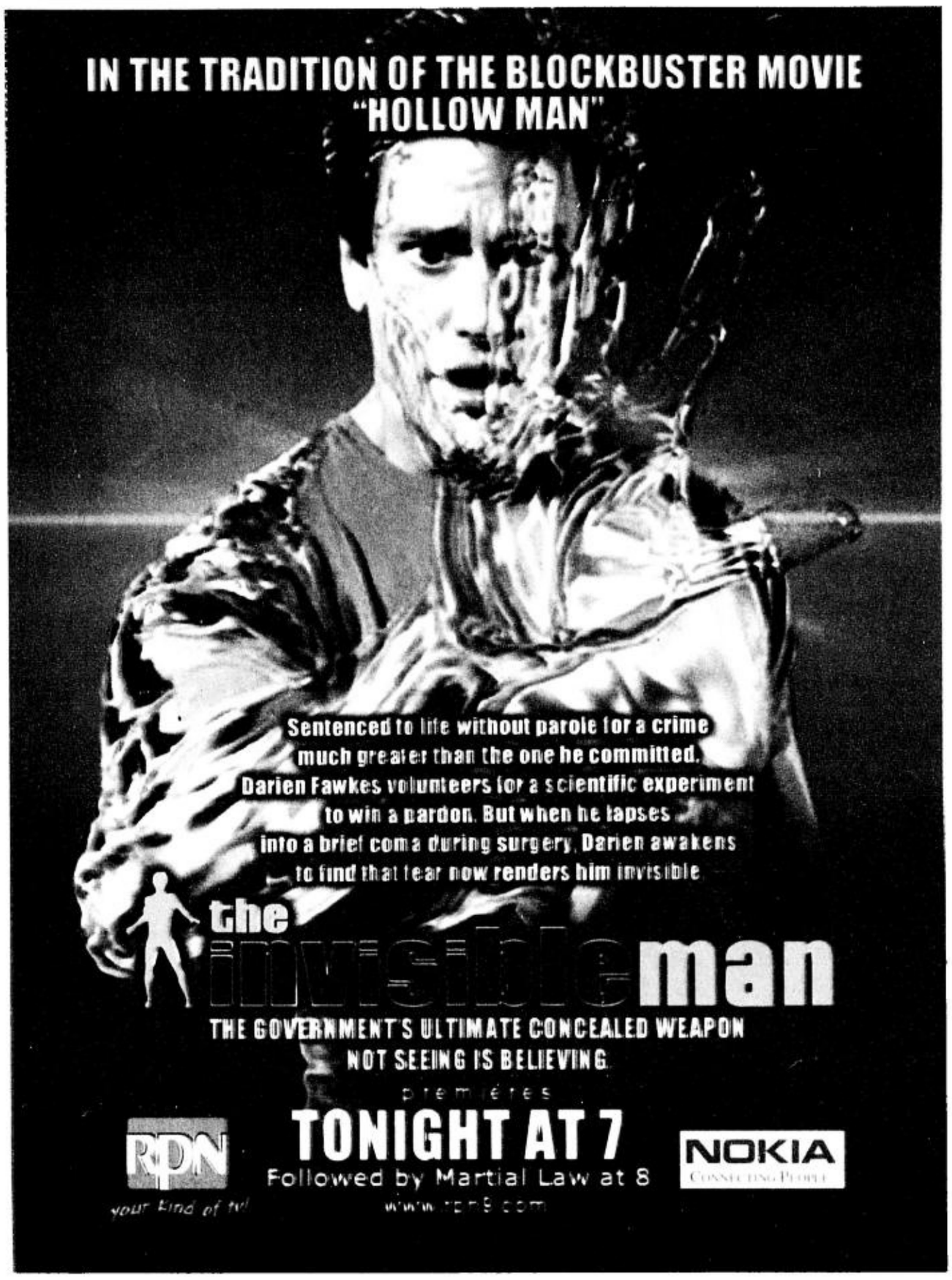

Diay runs again

DE VEGA

TRAGEDIES such as the ones that struck track star Lydia de Vega-Mercado would have crippled lesser mortals.

But the woman who used to be called Asia's fastest woman alive came out of the twin adversities stronger, more resolved.

"When I hung up my running shoes, I thought my life as a public figure was over," Diay said. "I lived a quiet life, rearing a small but happy family. I even left my job as a teacher so I can concentrate on my three children and let Paulo do the breadwinning chore.

"But our youngest son Jonathan (aged 2) became ill last year and had to be operated on twice. That the was the first time I asked myself: Was there something missing or wrong with the things I did in life?"

Then came the second, more tragic, event.

"Our son John Michael (aged 4) died in a vehicular accident a few months later. I reflected on that a lot. So, I started going out of the house again, to forget this latest tragedy," she said.

After John Michael's burial, she and her family moved to Meycauayan to ease the pain.

Diay, as Lydia is fondly called by relatives and friends, then sought other avenues through which she could continue leading a productive life.

"It was in Meycauayan where I was able to realize what was missing in my life. It was then I realized how I could best spend the rest of my life and satisfy the feeling that has been hounding me: to be of service to the country again," she said.

"Seeing young kids, especially in my own town, indulging in not so wholesome activities because of poverty led me to think that, while I lost a child, I could be a mother to these young children. As the saying goes (*kasabihan nga*), when God closes a door, he opens several windows."

Diay had this in mind when she accepted to run as councilor in Meycauayan Mayor Eduardo Alarilla's ticket. Her conditions to the incumbent mayor were: if she wins, she would take over the town's sports development program and see to the welfare of the children as well.

Six years after she retired from active competitions, Diay confided that she ached to return to the field and do something good for the country. She represented the nation for nearly three decades, invading the world's sports capitals and bringing honors to a people who took pride in her feats.

Diay now seized her chance and scheduled a 3-kilometer "fun run" today around the Meycauayan Commercial Center circuit to raise funds for the children.

"Win or lose, I will push through with my plans to help the children of Meycauayan (*Manalo't matalo, tuloy na tuloy na ang plano ko para sa kabataan ng Meycauayan*)," she said. "As early as now, I am calling on the authorities to help me with my projects."

Those interested to join her in the fun run may register at the residence of her father and former coach Francisco "Tatang" De Vega at Barangay Calvario. A registration center has also been opened at the Meycauayan Commercial Center.

Registration fee is P50. *Eddie Alinea*

Jimenez asked to explain inconsistencies in papers

MANILA candidate Mark Jimenez was asked to explain alleged inconsistencies in the documents he submitted to the Commission on Elections to support his contention that he is qualified to run for congressman in the sixth district of Manila.

Lawyer Teodulo M. Punzalan, who filed a petition with the Comelec to disqualify Jimenez, said the inconsistencies show that Jimenez willfully committed serious misrepresentations in his certificate of candidacy (COC).

Punzalan's petition said Jimenez failed to meet the residency requirement of a candidate and accused him of illegally using an alias when he signed his COC as Mark Jimenez instead of Mario B. Crespo, which is his real name.

Punzalan said that in the COC he filed with the Comelec, Jimenez also listed Aleli Pansacola as his wife and his address as 3445 Magistrado Torres, Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Manila. However, Aleli Pansacola is not listed in the census of Barangay 616, Zone 61, District VI in Bacood, Sta. Mesa that Jimenez used as evidence to prove that he is a resident of the place, the lawyer said.

The census was accomplished by a certain Consorcia A. Castaneda, a businesswoman, who listed Mario B. Crespo as her son-in-law. Mrs. Castaneda also listed, among others, the name of Caroline C. Jimenez, 39, as a daughter and presumably the wife of Jimenez.

"If he has really been living in Bacood, Sta. Mesa and his wife is Aleli Pansacola as named in his COC, then that census should have listed Aleli Pansacola and not Caroline C. Jimenez, the daughter of his supposed mother-in-law," Punzalan said. "Isn't this a material misrepresentation and also possibly, perjury?"

Punzalan Aleli Pansacola is not a resident of the place.

He said this explains why, in separate affidavits submitted to the Comelec, three neighbors of Mrs. Castaneda said they do not know Jimenez and have never seen him living there although they are long-time residents of the area.

He also cited a notarized affidavit dated Aug. 16, 1999 where Jimenez listed his address as No. 6 Intsia Road, South Forbes Park, Makati City. This affidavit was also submitted to the Comelec as evidence.

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De Villa backs Batacan

EXECUTIVE Secretary and former defense chief Renato de Villa has endorsed the candidacy of law professor Esmeraldo "Esmy" Batacan for representative of the lone congressional seat of Pasig City.

De Villa cited Batacan's track record, passion for genuine public service and love of country. Aside from being a law professor and a human rights advocate, Batacan was also one of the authors of the implementing rules and regulations of the Local Government Code of 1991.

Batacan and his law firm fought to attain legal victories for Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid and Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo in connection with the charges filed against them by the Estrada government.

DE VILLA (left) thinks Batacan is the best bet for Pasig City congressman.

Earlier, the major political parties of the People Power Coalition (PPC)—Reporma, Aksyon Demokratiko, PROMDI, KAMPI and the Liberal Party—joined forces also to support the candidacy of Batacan and Pasig City Mayor Mario Raymundo.

The merging of the political group was the initiative of Batacan.

The Reporma, Aksyon Demokratiko, Promdi and Liberal Party alliance represents the true Pasig People Power Coalition and is the only political merger in Pasig that genuinely supports the programs and visions of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Rivera supported by Aksyon

CANDIDATES of the Aksyon Demokratiko Party in Pasig City yesterday threw their support behind former Public Estates Authority chair Wainwright Rivera as the party's official candidate for mayor.

"We believe it is Chairman Rivera who best embodies the quality of leadership needed by the political opposition in Pasig to end the decade-long reign of the Eusebio dynasty and the corruption, incompetence and inefficiency which have characterized the system of governance in our city," said Councilor Rene Lipana, who is running for vice mayor under Aksyon's banner.

THE OLD FOR THE YOUNG

An elderly man welcomes reelectionist Mayor Jaime Fresnedi during the visit of the entire Lakas-NUCD team in Barangay Buli, Muntinlupa City. Fresnedi has been implementing the Senior Citizens Law, which grants the elderly 20-percent discount on medicine and in restaurants, movie houses and transportation.

Reyes bats for benefits for elderly

VETERAN journalist and former press secretary Rodolfo T. Reyes has urged Congress to hasten the passage of a breakthrough legislation that would truly empower an estimated four million senior citizens.

Reyes, also a former chief of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan, said the next Congress should act on a pending measure on the rights and privileges of Filipinos 60 years old and older.

"Such rights and privileges of the elderly include their guaranteed access to employment, medical care, education, housing and other social services," according to Reyes, who is running for a House seat to represent Parañaque City.

Although Congress has already passed a law granting senior citizens a 20-percent discount on certain purchases, Reyes said the legislature can really transform old people into highly productive citizens "by crafting a comprehensive program that would cover their peculiar needs and guarantee their access to jobs and opportunities."

This measure, which Reyes vowed to push in Congress once he is elected, should cover a general health and geriatric care program for the elderly of Parañaque and the rest of the country.

Aside from providing opportunities for self-employment, re-employment and skills retraining, the proposed bill should offer tax incentives to private companies that hire senior citizens, he said.

"The bill should also guarantee their access to both formal and non-formal education, and impose sanctions on schools that deny admission to any old person on the basis of his or her age," he said.

Under the proposed bill, Reyes said, the government should also be mandated to build low-cost housing projects for the elderly as well as care centers for those who are homeless, have been abandoned, or are incapable of taking care of themselves.

An independent congressional candidate, Reyes has had an extensive background in print and broadcast journalism and has won an award for being an investigative reporter who exposed the activities of a powerful drug syndicate in Metro Manila in the early 1960s.

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Only 4 Manila bets sign covenant

BY JEROME ANING

ONLY four out of the seven mayoral candidates in Manila showed up yesterday afternoon for the signing of the "Covenant for Peaceful, Honest and Orderly Elections."

The candidates who came, however, took advantage of the ceremony by delivering campaign speeches when asked to briefly comment on the covenant. The signing took place at the Araullo High School at the corner of United Nations and Taft avenues in Ermita.

The three major contenders, incumbent Mayor Lito Atienza, former mayor Alfredo Lim and former congressman Amado Bagatsing, did not see each other face to face.

Atienza, the Liberal Party candidate, came to the school auditorium to sign the covenant before the program could start. He left 15 minutes after the 2 p.m. start of the program.

"They're not here, so I'm leaving," Atienza told reporters, referring to his opponents.

Lim delivered an hour-long anti-Atienza speech which the organizers—officials of the Western Police District and the city's elections officers— did not cut short.

The former interior secretary lectured police officials on allegations that some of them were vice protectors. He also told them to arrest an alleged drug lord who he said was supporting Atienza.

Lim attacked congressional candidate Rudy Bacani for being "*balimbing*" (turncoat). He also renewed his offer to quit the race if his opponents would find him lying during his campaign.

Two independent candidates, Onofre Abad and Antonio Gamo, also took time to campaign for themselves, with Gamo promising to raise the policemen's allowance if he wins.

The other major candidate, Amado Bagatsing of the People Power Coalition, did not come or send a representative. The other independents, Imelda Apostol and Benjamin Rivera, were also no-shows.

SOLID AS ROCK

Reelectionist Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos of Lakas-PPC receives a symbolic hollow block from a resident of Agudo-Hilaga in Barangka. The residents, many of whom lost their homes to a recent fire, said they are supporting Abalos in appreciation of his assistance in helping build decent shelter for them in what is now known as Lupang Adhikain.

Makati as IT center

MAKATI City shall be the nation's center for information technology research and development, mayoral candidate Jejomar C. Binay said in a recent speech before the Makati Rotary Club.

Citing the need for the country to keep abreast of international trends in technology development, Binay said Makati will take the initiative in taking up that challenge. He said the city shall be an IT zone.

He said city government would introduce incentives for existing and new IT businesses that would establish themselves in Makati. The incentives would include tax holidays and credits, subject to certain qualifications.

Binay said he would order the immediate intensification of IT training at the Makati Science High School, which the education department has already ranked No. 3 among all science high schools in the Philippines.

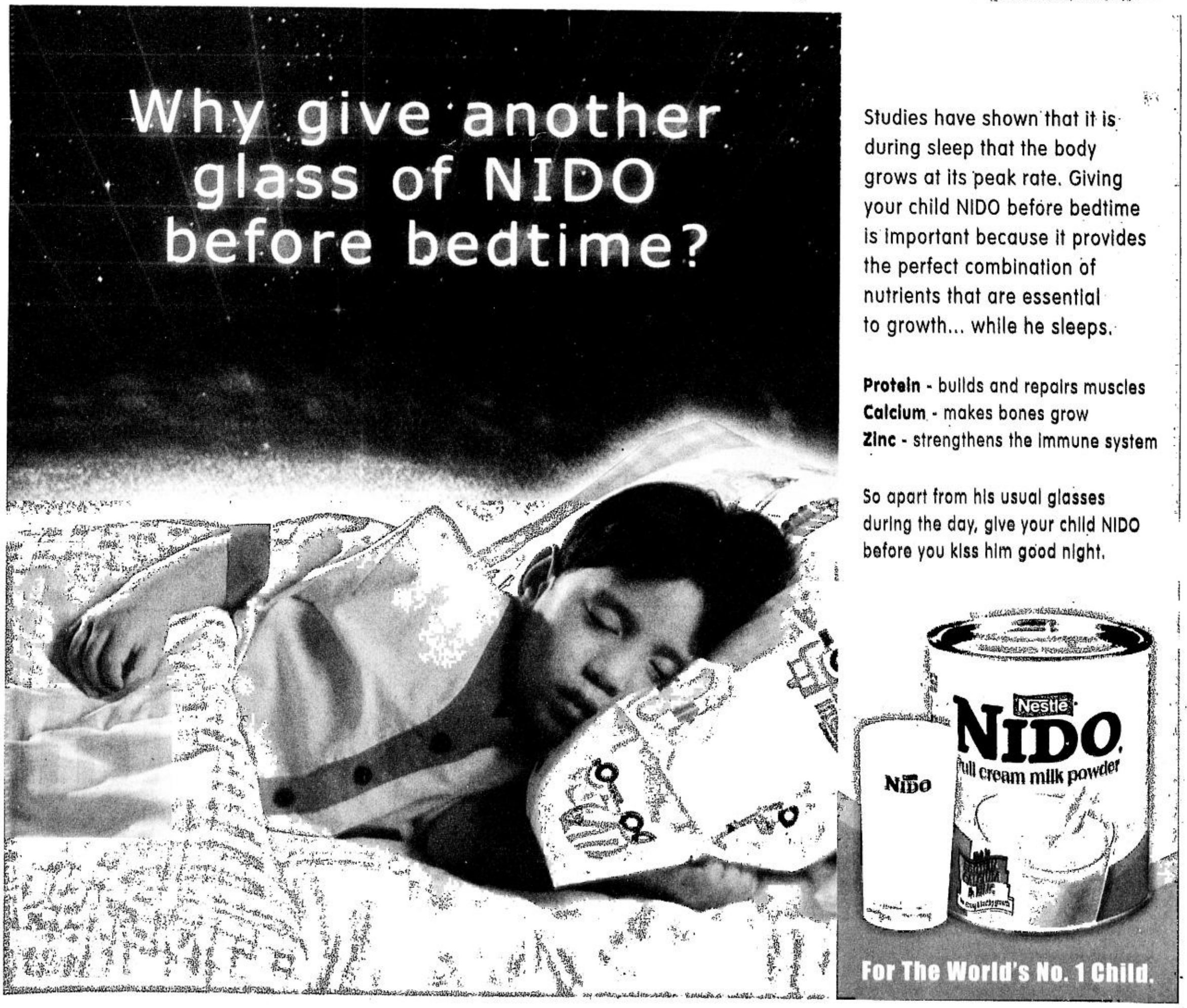
Binay urged the business sector to seriously consider going into IT-related businesses and take advantage of the incentive package.

Alay Lakad

VALENZUELA City candidates will join the Alay Lakad 2001 of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Maysan, Valenzuela City on Saturday April 21 at 5 a.m. Organized by the committee on service headed by Ed G. Bayot to promote awareness on May 14 election with the theme "Mulat na Gamitin ang Karapatan sa Darating na Halalan."

Also to join the affair are all Maysan Parish organizations, committees and mini-councils, homeowners associations, barangay councils, schools and labor organizations.

OLRP parish priest Fr. Albert Suatengco and parish vicar Fr. Eric Bagay are the spiritual directors. For details call 292-5785 or 432-9810.



Formica distributor protests 'bashing'

PHILIPPINE Laminates Inc. (PLI), a local distributor of Formica laminates and products, questioned the accuracy of the claims made in news reports by Makati-based Ergonomics System Phils. Inc. (Ergo) in filing theft charges against PLI Director Paul R. Daza and its employees.

PLI general manager Malou Adriano said she was certain that Ergo's "public bashing" of PLI stemmed from a case of estafa and bouncing check PLI filed against Ergo's president, a Mr. Philip Ng, for a P7-million check that he issued to pay for an P11-million debt of Ergo to PLI.

Adriano said she also "found it ironic that Ergo would accuse Mr. Daza of theft when he owns 20 percent of Ergo. So why would he seek to hurt the interests of Ergo?"

She asserted that "Ergo's Mr. Ng is using the charges to cover up his own financial wrongdoing and is just trying to embarrass and harass Mr. Daza, and to take advantage of Mr. Daza's respected position in the business community as an executive of MRT builder Metro Rail Transit Corp.

She added that PLI would pursue the estafa and bouncing check case against Ng "to the fullest extent of the law" despite the "attempt at mudslinging and public intimidation" allegedly being done by Ng.

Naia Customs employees 'demoralized'

BUREAU of Customs employees at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport warned they would stage a protest action should Malacañang fail to streamline the bureau and remove overstaying officials from office.

In a statement, the 5,700-strong Bureau of Customs Employees Association (Bocea) said a number of association members have voiced interest in taking extra-legal actions should Malacañang insist on retaining inefficient officials.

The Bocea added that the presence of overstaying officials has demoralized the rank and file employees and caused the government millions of pesos in lost income due to poor performance.

They cited the case of a 69-year-old division head at the Naia as a prime example.

The Bocea said the official should have been retired from office during the time of President Ramos because of her advanced age, but for unknown reasons, she managed to stay in office.

They added that her persistence could only be the result of a strong political backing from the Office of the President Management Staff.

"These are the things that greatly demoralize us," one Bocea member, who asked not to be named, said.

The Bocea said the division head's continued stay in office is a blatant violation of civil service rules, which set the compulsory retirement age at 65.

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6 DOLBY SURROUND CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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8 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND RUGRATS
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8 (SDDS) DOUBLE TAKE
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5
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5 SEDUCER
6 (DOLBY) THE CROW
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5 3000 MILES

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3 EVANGELINE 14
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5 ATTACK FORCE
6 3000 MILES

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4 ABAKADA INA

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	THE CROW
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EASTERN	
MAXIM	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
MIRAMAR	VIRGIN WIFE/TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
ODEON-2	ATTACK FORCE
ROBEN	ABAKADA ... INA
TANDEM-1	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
TANDEM-2	EVANGELINE 14
TIMES	PROOF OF LIFE/DEMON GATE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	BAYAD NA PATI KALULUWA MO
QUEZON-1	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
REMAR	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
REMAR-2	ABAKADA INA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	RUGRATS
CINEMA-2	SWEET NOVEMBER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ABAKADA ... INA
CINEMA-2	MADERASO
CINEMA-3	SEDUCER
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE CROW
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
CINEMA-6	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
CINEMA-7	GLADIATOR
CINEMA-8	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUGRATS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	DOUBLE TAKE
CINEMA-12	AIR BUD 3
CINEMA-14	ANTI-TRUST
CINEMA-15	ABAKADA INA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	DI MATIGIL ANG INIT / HIYAS
CINEMA-3	MS CONGENIALITY
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	AIR BUD 3
CINEMA-2	ANTI-TRUST
CINEMA-3	RUGRATS IN PARIS
CINEMA-4	DOUBLE TAKE
CINEMA-5	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-6	SWEET NOVEMBER

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Slain baker's kin unhappy with killer's sentence

BY ALCUIN PAPA

A DYING man's declaration and eyewitness testimonies seemed to be not enough for a Parañaque judge to convict a man for murder.

The family and friends of victim Rolando Garces Jr. protested Judge Zosimo Escano's decision on Thursday to downgrade the charge against suspect Ramon Rosales from murder to homicide.

And because he was convicted of homicide, Rosales was sentenced to 17 years in prison for killing Garces in 1998.

In a phone interview yesterday, Garces' cousin Lloyd Divinas said he and his relatives were not happy with Escano's decision.

"The family is very disappointed with the sentence," Divinas said. "We expected murder because we know (Rosales) planned the murder."

But Judge Escano said that there was no evidence on hand to suggest that Rosales' act was "premeditated," hence the homicide charge.

"Evident premeditation cannot be appreciated in this case for there is no direct evidence of the planning and premeditation to kill (Garces)," said Escano in a seven-page decision.

The judge also recognized "without an iota of doubt" that it was Rosales who killed Garces "without any justifiable reason."

Escano based this on the eyewitness account of the victim's sister and from Garces himself just before he died.

Rosales shot and killed Garces, 18, on Dec. 11, 1998 in front of Garces' bakery on St. John Street in Multinational Village, Parañaque City.

Rosales, a tricycle driver who doubled as a barangay watchman, shot Garces as he was closing the bakery for the night.

Before he died, Garces told his mother that it was Rosales who shot him. The victim's sister Jennifer, 19, also testified that she witnessed the shooting.

In his defense, Rosales claimed Garces was involved in drugs in the area.

But Divinas said that based on the medico-legal examination of the victim, no trace of illegal substance was found in his body.

In fact, it was Rosales who tested positive for drug use after experts examined the accused, according to Garces' cousin.

Divinas said they are studying the possibility of filing an appeal to restore the charge against Rosales to murder.

Buyers of pirated tapes face prosecution

BUYERS of pirated tapes and discs will now be prosecuted.

The Anti-Film Piracy Task Force said people caught patronizing pirated tapes and discs are going to be prosecuted along with the manufacturers and vendors of unauthorized and illegal audio and video products.

Judge Antonio C. Reyes of the Baguio City Regional Trial Court, Branch 61, on April 17, 2001 convicted the general manager of a cable TV station for the crime of piracy via the unauthorized exhibition of several movies.

Macky Magpili, general manager of the North wire and Cable Communications Corp. (Northcomm), which operates in Baguio City, was found guilty of 10 counts of piracy and sentenced to five years imprisonment and a fine of P150,000. During a raid by the task force on July 7, 1997, Magpili was found illegally showing films.

It was proven during trial that Magpili showed "Reputasyon," "Aringkingking," "Manila Girl," "The Adventures of Pinocchio," "3 Ninjas," "Bounty Hunters," "The Preacher's Wife," "Alyas Boy Ama," "Nagmumurang Kamatis" and "Ang TV Movie, Ibong Adarna" without the consent of the owners of Northcomm's channels 11 and 23.

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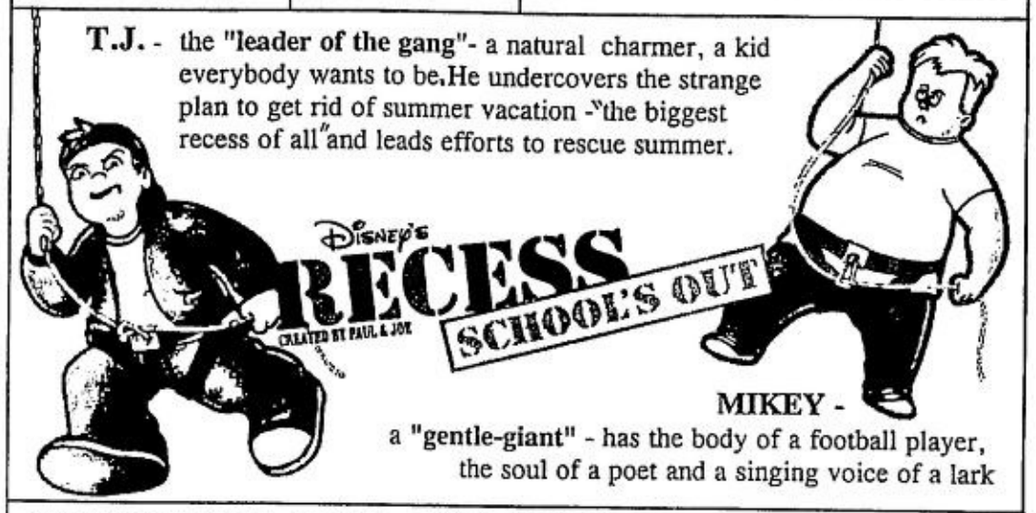

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AYALA CINEMAS
LATE NIGHT SCREENINGS

LATE NIGHT SCREENING SCHEDULES FOR APRIL 21 (Saturday) 2001

SWEET NOVEMBER (PG-13)
Alabang Town Center 10:45 p.m. | Glorietta 4 12:00 mn | Greenbelt 11:10 p.m.

ANTITRUST (PG-13)
Alabang Town Center 11:00 p.m. | Greenbelt 12:00 mn

FIN[illegible]NTER (GP)
Glorietta 4 11:15 p.m. | Greenbelt 12:00 mn

DOUBLE TAKE (PG-13)
Glorietta 4 12:00 mn

3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND (R)
Alabang Town Center 11:30 p.m. | Glorietta 4 12:00 mn | Greenbelt 11:00 p.m.

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AIR BUD 3 - G 10:40, 12:30, 2:20, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50, 9:40	ANTI - TRUST - P 13 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50, 11:10	RUGRATS IN PARIS - G 11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
DOUBLE TAKE - P 13 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00	3000 MILES - R 18 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	SWEET NOVEMBER - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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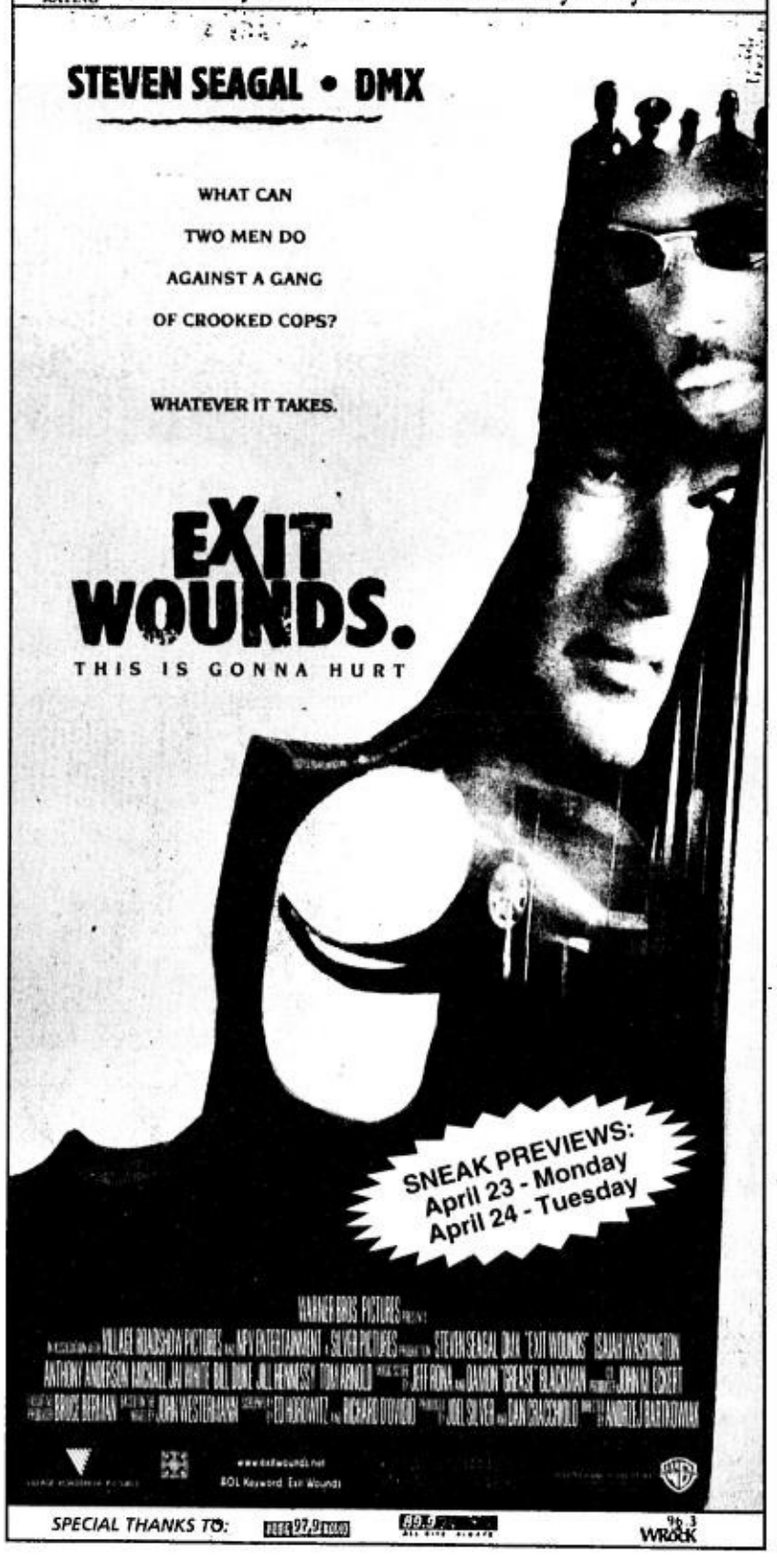

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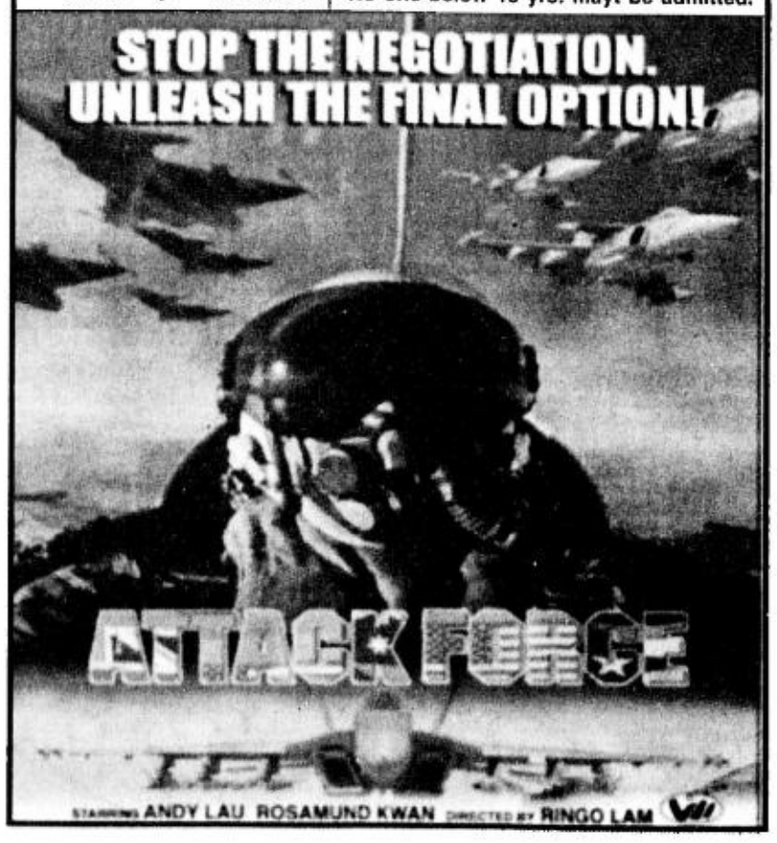

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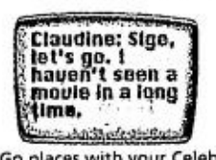

3. Go places with your Celebrity Pal. Type GO <place> and send to 250
Ex. GO MOVIE

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▩ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Ayala allots ₱47B for expansion

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

TAKING a strategic position in time for the rebound after this looming economic slowdown, the Ayala conglomerate has earmarked P47 billion for the expansion of its various businesses for this year.

The fresh funds to be infused into the domestic economy, with Globe Telecom Inc. getting the lion's share, would be much higher than the P25 billion spent by the conglomerate last year.

During the annual stockholders' meeting of Ayala Corp. yesterday, key officials noted that the overall strategy was to brace for globalization by strengthening its three core businesses—property, banking and telecommunications.

"While business conditions will remain difficult over the short term, particularly as the US and Japanese economies undergo their own periods of slowdown, we are preparing ourselves for an economic upswing. And we will fully contribute our share in building the New Philippines that is slowly but surely now emerging," Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Zobel de Ayala said.

Ayala Corp. managing director for strategic planning Rufino Luis Manotok explained that of the total capital expenditures planned for this year, P37 billion would be channeled to Globe Telecom as telecommunication was identified as a key growth area.

He explained that the parent company, Ayala Corp., would get P4 billion, while property arm Ayala Land Inc. would get P2.6 billion. Food manufacturing unit Pure Foods Corp., on the other hand, would still get P1.5 billion even if it is already in the process of being sold to food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

Manotok said that of the $750 million in total capital expenditures programmed for this year, $350 million would already be covered by borrowings contracted last year. The rest would be sourced from new loans or another capital-raising activity through a stock rights offering, private placements or public offering.

Ayala Corp. president Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II explained that the group wanted to build a sustainable competitive advantage and eventually evolve into a regional player in certain industries. This means that the 167-year-old conglomerate would have to rationalize assets of less strategic importance.

"Recently, we entered into an agreement in principle with SMC to conclude the sale of Pure Foods within the second quarter of this year. While we believe in the long-term potential of Pure Foods, we had to make a resource allocation decision at a time when many of our businesses were increasingly hungry for capital. These tradeoffs are painful but need to be made in our fast changing economic environment," he said.

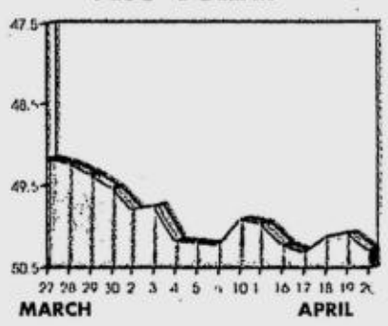
On the other hand, he noted that the huge budget for Globe Telecom was to leverage its subscriber base of more than three million subscribers by continually rolling out new value-added services and pursuing alliances with leading content providers. The target is to expand the subscriber base to five million this year.

Globe Telecom is expected to complete its merger with Islacom Communications Inc. within the first semester, thus cementing the strategic partnership between Ayala Corp., Singapore Telecom and Deutsche Telekom.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

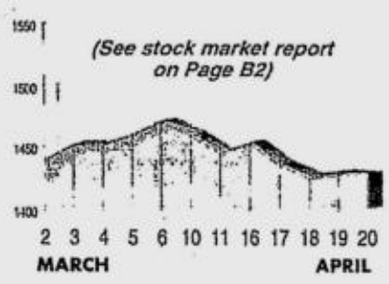
Peso-Dollar Rate

₱50.28 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 20, 2001

¥121.94 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 121.94 as of 5 p.m., April 20, 2001

GOLD:$265.00/265.50
per ounce Hong Kong, April 20, 2001

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end flat

SHARES closed almost unchanged yesterday, with some early downside offset near the close by some late buying interest in selected large caps, traders said.

"There were some signs of some bargain hunting late in the session," Mercantile Securities trader Warren Chua said.

Turnover, however, remained muted with just 411 million shares traded.

The main composite index closed off 0.33 of a point, or 0.02 percent at 1,428.54.

Advancers and decliners were even at 27 each, with 40 stocks untraded.

The main composite index was off 16.2 points, or 1.1 percent since its close last Wednesday, the final trading day of the holiday-shortened Easter Week.

United Coconut Planters Bank portfolio manager Vanessa Lim said weakness in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. weighed on the broad market.

"It was just following its ADRs (American Depository Receipts) . . . when they fall it typically prompts foreign selling of the stock," Lim said.

Lim noted that PLDT, along with many other telecom firms, have been out of investment favor recently, while Chua said players were concerned that the earnings outlook for the firm this year "was not that rosy." *Reuters*

BPI profit doubles to P2.1B

BANK of the Philippine Islands, the country's second biggest lender, yesterday reported that its profit for the first quarter of the year nearly doubled to P2.1 billion from P1.1 billion in the same period last year.

The Ayala-controlled bank's first quarter profit was two-thirds the bank's full-year profit in 2000 of P3.05 billion.

In a briefing with reporters following the bank's annual stockholders' meeting Thursday, BPI president Xavier Loinaz said the first quarter profit should be indicative of the bank's performance for the rest of the year.

Loinaz attributed the bank's substantially higher first-quarter profit to the absence of non-recurring expenses. BPI's net income last year plunged 35 percent on the back of P2 billion in one-time costs in relation to its merger with Far East Bank and Trust Co. and Ayala Insurance Holdings Corp. and the P3.6 billion in loan-loss provisions.

BPI also reported that total revenue in the first quarter shot up 21 percent while operating expenses fell 6 percent from the level a year before.

Net interest income and non-interest income posted improvements of 22 percent and 18 percent, respectively.

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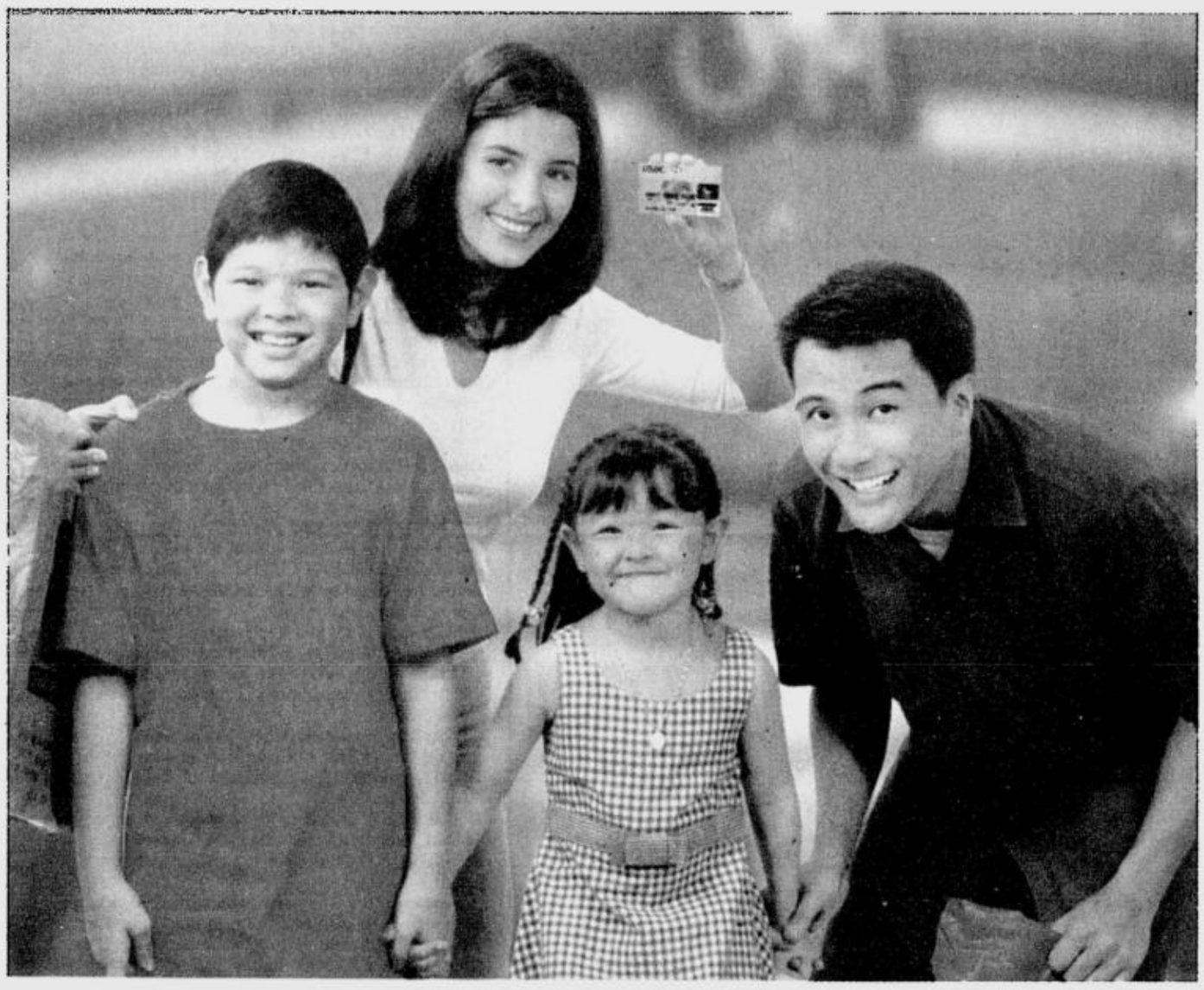

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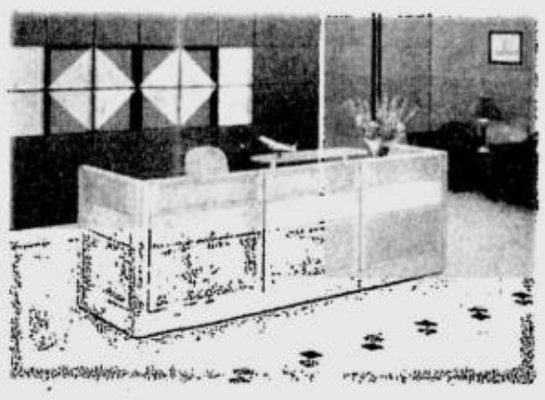

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(As of Friday, April 20, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70.5	72.5	70.5	72	756,400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	43	43.5	42.5	43.5	49,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	210	212	207	208	72,560
Prudential Bank	500	500	500	500	8,360
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	277,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.4	0.48	0.4	0.48	20,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	220	220	220	220	300
Manulife Financial Corp.	1265	1270	1265	1265	5,360
Sun Life Financial Serv.	970	1005	970	1005	15,970
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38.5	38.5	38	38.5	15,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.41	1,880,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	655	690	655	690	640
Pilte!	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	650,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	700	700	680	690	110,360
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.046	0.047	97,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	40	41	40	41	9,100
Manila Electric Co. B	54.5	55	53.5	55	823,000
Petron Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.86	1.86	1,962,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.94	0.9	0.94	70,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	9,446,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.22	1.3	1.22	1.3	8,287,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	13	12.75	13	266,500
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	30	30	30	30	471,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	95	95	95	95	3,000
RFM Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.9	0.9	2,150,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46	46.5	46	46.5	12,700
San Miguel Corp. B	50.5	50.5	50.5	50.5	22,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	310,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.6	2,862,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	2,890,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12.25	1,100
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.8	0.75	0.8	90,000
APC Group Inc.	0.18	0.22	0.18	0.21	1,440,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.44	1.48	5,978,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	2,400,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	mixed lots	1	470,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	22	22.5	22	22.25	38,800
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
Ionics Inc.	12.25	13.5	12.25	13.25	80,300
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.9	1.86	1.9	14,773,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.71	0.73	0.71	0.73	710,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.48	260,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	4	4	4	4	20,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	4	4	4	4	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	3,400,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	950,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	740,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	140,000
Music Corp.	2.5	2.55	2.5	2.55	86,000
Pryce Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	40,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13	13.5	13	13.5	225,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.51	0.58	0.51	0.58	10,310,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.55	0.49	0.54	1,630,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.46	0.53	0.46	0.53	150,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.23	0.26	0.23	0.26	630,000
Philippine Racing Club	4	4	4	4	36,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	38	38	38	38	361,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	685,000
Jollibee Warrants	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	20,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	10,000,000
PLDT (10% Prel) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
Waterfront Phils-Warrant	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	3,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	1,386,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	220,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.33	1,880,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2	2	1.9	2	10,681,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	350,000
SM Development Corp.	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.8	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	1,831,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	4,100,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	3,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	140,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.18	0.18	0.175	0.175	560,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	3,000,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	200,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.08	0.095	0.08	0.095	1,600,000
South China Resources Inc	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	400,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,210,550	98,822,180.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	188,366,600	268,917,475.00
PRO	21,058,000	42,379,400.00
Mining	10,400,000	288,850.00
OIL	15,220,000	268,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	236,255,150	410,676,105.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	585.99	DOWN 0.13
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,954.56	UP 12.73
PRO	558.23	DOWN 0.26
Mining	1,103.54	UP 7.83
OIL	1.52	DOWN 0.04
All Shares Index	740.36	UP 6.74
Composite	1,428.54	DOWN 0.33

NO. OF ADVANCES: 27; NO. OF DECLINES: 27; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 94; NO. OF TRADES: 2,393

Restructuring of Equitable's ₱30-B loan seen

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it was willing to restructure a portion of the P30-billion emergency loan it extended to Equitable PCI Bank once the lender has completed a P10-billion capital build-up program within the second quarter.

"We told them we would like to see the final capital infusion plan and the final line-up of the bank's board of directors," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday.

The BSP chief confirmed that the bank had already settled a portion of its outstanding loan. He said Equitable PCI would pay some more and the remaining unsettled amount with the BSP could be restructured and extended for five years.

Equitable PCI said it had paid 60 percent of its loans with the BSP but several banking sources said the lender has yet to pay a cent of the huge loan, the biggest in the history of the BSP.

Buenaventura noted that the BSP would not enter into a payment-in-kind arrangement with Equitable PCI unlike the dacion en pago deal it was willing to go through with Philippine National Bank.

The country's third largest lender was forced to borrow as much as P30 billion from the BSP's reverse repurchase and emergency facilities to finance heavy withdrawals from late last year to early this year after it was dragged into the "Juetengate" scandal.

The BSP chief said he was confident that the state-owned pension funds with a combined 37-percent equity in Equitable PCI would move to preserve their investments in the bank.

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia earlier said he would not put in a single centavo in Equitable PCI if the Go family, which he accused of wanting to control the bank via "a free ride with the pension funds," would not put in their share in the capital build-up program.

Garcia earlier disclosed that the Go family wanted GSIS and the Social Security System to lend the bank the P10 billion in additional capital being required by the BSP.

SSS has committed to help Equitable PCI. "I am sure GSIS and SSS will cooperate and not let their 37-percent equity go down the drain," Buenaventura said.

Garcia said an existing shareholder believed to be bank director Ricardo Leong had offered to put in P5 billion in exchange for the chairmanship in the bank.

However, the Go family, which owns 31 percent of the bank, refused to relinquish control and only transferred the chairmanship to another relative, Antonio Go, after Peter Go Pailian had resigned.

WHY STOCK MARKET INVESTORS SHOULD GO SCRIPLESS

After four years of scripless trading, the Philippine stock market remains to have one of the highest number of paper certificates in circulation compared to its neighboring countries. Out of the 1.2 trillion issued and outstanding shares of the 230 companies listed at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), only around 278 billion (roughly 25%) are held in book-entry (scripless) form through the facilities of the Philippine Central Depository, Inc. (PCD). The comparative figures for Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand are 60%, 100%, 100% and 50%, respectively.

Stock trading using paper certificates poses a lot of problems and inefficiencies. Instances of trading forged, unauthorized or doubly cancelled certificates still persist due to the difficulty in controlling and keeping track of paper certificates. The only reliable solution is to go 100% scripless as proven by countries such as Singapore and Malaysia. This is the rationale for the organization of PCD and the introduction of the PCD system in January 1997. With the shares kept in scripless form in the PCD system, trading and subsequent settlement is facilitated. That is, stock market investors can be assured that the shares they bought are good and available for selling anytime.

To bring our stock market at par with our neighbors, the PSE and PCD, with the support of the Securities and Exchange Commission, launched new procedures relative to the use of physical certificates.

Effective **1 April 2001**, PSE brokers are enjoined to accept sell order instructions from their clients only if the subject shares are already in book-entry credits in the PCD system (PSE Memo to Brokers #032-2001, dated 1 Feb. 2001). This means that investors holding paper certificates should convert their paper shares to book-entry credits first before a PSE broker could entertain their sell orders.

This translates to a waiting period of anywhere between 2 to 10 days depending on the conversion method the investor will use. For example, an investor wanting to sell his paper shares on 30 April 2001 has to surrender his certificate for conversion to book-entry on April 16 (Conversion Method A) or April 25 (Conversion Method B). Method A entails a lower cost but a longer waiting time, while Method B has a shorter waiting time in exchange for a higher cost. Investors who keep their shares in the book-entry system will not incur the conversion cost nor endure the waiting time.

How can investors keep their shares in book-entry form?

Institutional investors are welcome to become direct participants of PCD. For details on how to become a direct participant, please call PCD Help Desk at 893-5636 ext. 1202.

Individual investors, on the other hand, can keep their shares in book-entry form through any of the 200 direct participants of PCD (i.e., PSE brokers, custodian banks, insurance companies and trust departments of banks). The individual investor may instruct the direct participant to keep his shares in the PCD System either:

a. as a separate sub-account (either named or coded); or
b. co-mingled with shares from other clients of the direct participant with the details kept in the participant's own backroom system.

In both options, the investor must deposit his shares with a PCD participant (similar to depositing money with a bank) and the shares will be under the responsibility of the depositing participant.

The primary advantage of the sub-account option is that the investor will receive a monthly *Statement of Stock Position* directly from PCD. This report may be used by the investor to check his transactions and balances. A fee of P55 per month (VAT inclusive) is charged to cover the printing and mailing costs.

What are the conversion methods and their associated costs?

Method A: Conversion via PCD (At Least 10 Days Waiting Time)

a. Investor surrenders his certificates to any PCD participant (e.g., his broker) together with P20 per certificate (plus VAT, where applicable) for the transfer agent cancellation fee.

b. PCD participant creates a deposit transaction (lodgment request transaction) in the PCD System and delivers the lodgment request together with the certificates and transfer agent cancellation fee to PCD.

c. PCD receives the certificates and delivers them to the appropriate transfer agent on a weekly basis, including the cancellation fee collected by the broker. PCD also pays the transfer agent for the nominee certificate issuance fee of P100 (plus VAT, where applicable). PCD does not charge the participant or the investor for this service.

d. Transfer agent verifies the certificates, communicates any deficiency to the depositing PCD participant and either confirms (good delivery) or rejects (defective delivery) the deposit.

e. Once confirmed by the transfer agent as good delivery, the participant's deposit in the PCD system is credited. The broker informs the client that shares have book-entry credits and can now be sold.

Method B: Direct Transfer (At Least 2 Days Waiting Time)

a. Investor surrenders his certificates to any PCD participant (e.g., his broker) together with P20 per certificate for the transfer agent cancellation fee and P100 for the nominee certificate issuance fee. Both amounts are VAT exclusive.

b. PCD participant creates a deposit transaction (lodgment request transaction) in the PCD System. He then prepares a Direct Transfer instruction and delivers this together with the lodgment request, the certificates and the fees directly to the transfer agent. Unlike in Method A, the delivery of certificates to the transfer agent will not be coursed through PCD, thus, the faster turnaround time.

c. Transfer agent verifies the certificates, communicates any deficiency to the depositing PCD participant and either confirms (good delivery) or rejects (defective delivery) the deposit.

d. Once confirmed by the transfer agent as good delivery, the participant's deposit in the PCD system is credited. The broker informs the client that shares have book-entry credits and can now be sold.

Some transfer agents offer express processing (e.g., same day confirmation) subject to additional fees.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, Please visit our website (www.pcd.com.ph) or call PCD Help Desk at 893-5636 ext. 1202.

ADVT

Shell sets new well in Malampaya

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

SHELL Philippines Exploration BV is set to drill a new offshore exploratory well near the Malampaya gas field early next year.

Spex is the operator of the Malampaya deep water gas project 50 kilometers northwest off Palawan.

The biggest natural gas reserve ever found in the country, the Malampaya field is expected to yield 2.6 trillion cubic feet of gas over the next 20 years.

To be called Iloc-1, the new exploratory well would be drilled after a 10th well has been drilled in Malampaya.

A reserve of about 500 billion cubic feet of natural gas is hoped to be proven with the drilling of the Iloc well.

Rufino Bomasang, president of Malampaya consortium member PNOC-Exploration Corp., said the drilling of Iloc-1 was delayed because they needed to concentrate on getting the Malampaya gas to the surface.

PNOC-EC has a 10-percent stake in the Malampaya project while Spex and Texaco Philippines both have 45 percent each.

Meantime, Bomasang said PNOC-EC was waiting for favorable developments in the peace talks between the government and Moro rebels before they would drill another offshore well in the Cotabato basin.

Tails of two sweeties

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SOMEBODY walked out of her own Cabinet meeting last Tuesday. But you would, too, if you had to suffer listening to two lovely buffoons. All right, *sige na nga*, I am qualifying that term. Actually, they were two "very important" buffoons!

As they presented their plans during the meeting, it became obvious to Her Cuteness that they were only trying to sweet-talk the entire Cabinet. One of them seemed to be in dreamland, while the other was just plain faking it.

Gloriaetta just had to cut them short with strong words. An eyewitness said you could hear the sound of the tails of those two sweeties retreating somewhere there in the vicinity of their manhood. Now you know which is the stronger sex.

* * *

THIS cute administration of Gloriaetta, anyway, was hurrying the budget for 2002. It barely had a week from that Cabinet meeting last Tuesday. And there was still a minor problem. It did not know just exactly where to get the money. Not from me, I hope.

Enter Sweetie No. 1, who talked of grand things, centering his presentation on some far-reaching visions for the beloved motherland. It turned out that Her Cuteness was in the mood for a little reality check. Visions do not a huge budget pay for, really.

Gloriaetta even had to remind Sweetie No. 1 that he was no longer in the legislature. There, just with talks of visions, you can bluff all the people all the time. In the Cabinet, you deal with actual, real live problems. End of presentation!

He deserved it, I guess. With the economy already reeling, this cute administration is busy in a "review" of the tax system. It's like, here we are, our house is already burning, and this poor old sweetie is trying to check it for termites. Nice, no?

* * *

WHILE Sweetie No. 2 talked, on the other hand, Gloriaetta made a snide comment which, in penology, is the equivalent of castration. Our hero was part of the government panel in the "peace talks." Naturally he came to the meeting unprepared.

Having watched television interviews of somebody on the other side, Gloriaetta said if our hero would conduct the talks in the same way he reported to the Cabinet, the government panel would be eaten alive whole in one gulp.

Then she stood up and walked out of the meeting. Well, Cabinet members are all busy, harried people. It seems to me that the problems of a tattered economy weighs down heavily on Her Cuteness. I don't think she has time for sweet nothings called BS.

* * *

REPORTS on how bad the SSS was managed during the watch of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band . . . must torment its former head, Carlos "Chuckie" Arellano. For who else should own the blame for those supposed billions of "losses" of the fund?

Is this the government agency rated No. 1 in service and performance by surveys after surveys of Pulse Asia and SWS, beating the erstwhile leader DSWD, which was the department of Gloriaetta then?

And so I tried to reach Arellano. I was one of those who, according to the reports, was wrong in praising him for a good job. No, the man wouldn't talk to me. Not in English, not in Filipino, and definitely not in Chinese. *Nga naman*, no talk, no mistake.

Still, I must personally verify that report. As a column writer, I am no longer an employee of this daily. It does not pay for my SSS membership anymore. Correct me if I am stupid, but I retain my membership by paying the dues on my own.

Thus, I thought I had a stake in the way SSS manages its funds. The office of the SSS chair and president, Vitaliano Nañagas, said I could not talk to the new boss either since he was attending a meeting abroad in a tone that says could I please just go to hell.

* * *

BUT Horace Templo, chief actuary of SSS, meaning, he eats numbers for breakfast, has some interesting figures. When in mid-1998 Arellano first got in, the total resources of SSS was about P143 billion. By the time he left, they have reached P163 billion.

That's a clear gain of some P20 billion in just two and a half years. I really have to be a complete moron if I call such a big gain a "loss." Even Templo himself insists that the SSS never incurred losses in the past three years.

In 1999, in fact, the SSS earned P17 billion from its investments. I wrote then that it was a record-breaking year for SSS in its 43 years of existence. Okay, Templo's figures showed it earned only P4 billion from investments last year. Still no loss, mind you!

So where did the report about massive losses come from? Templo suggested that it was all a big mistake. In 2000, you see, contributions were about P3.5 billion shy of the actual benefits given out by the fund. It's just like Judas' balls—unbalanced.

* * *

THAT, in pension fund parlance, is known as a "negative" position. In everyday language, it so happens "negative" can also mean "loss." Somebody apparently concluded that the SSS had a P3.5-billion loss last year.

Unknown to the moron, precisely because of such an imbalance between contributions and benefits, the SSS invests the money. Only a small part of it goes to equities. Pension funds abroad, in comparison, put roughly 90 percent in equities.

Templo admitted that because of bad times in the stock market, the SSS will incur "losses" if it were to unload its holdings today, right at this very minute. This probably explains the report on "bad investments." Hmmm.

Last time I checked, pension funds do not unload in a down market, which happens every now and then. They wait for the cycle of better prices. If the SSS unloads now, instead of taking position, I warn you, I will personally, break Templo's umbrella in half.

* * *

ANYWAY, by investing money, pension funds like the SSS take risks. Surely, in hindsight, there will always be so-called bad investments. What matters is, all told, the fund still makes money. This, the SSS did in the past three years. Well, only P20 billion.

The thing is, if anybody indeed wants the SSS to look bad, what can be the reason? I guess somebody wanted to justify the increase in contribution of members from 8.4 to 12 percent. So he sounded off the alarm.

Look, the fund is in such a bad shape, what with all those "bad investments" and "losses," its members just have to give up food money to give to the fund, so that it could continue to serve the same members who are dying of hunger. Something like that!

How stupid is such a proposition, anyway? I don't really know if it is as stupid as the SSS purchase of half a building during the time of Kuya Eddie, when it already owned a whole building in the same area. Whadayano, the new building is unoccupied.

GMA cuts cattle tariffs

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has approved a reduction in the country's tariffs on imported live cattle from Australia and New Zealand from 7 percent to 3 percent.

In an interview yesterday, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor told the INQUIRER the President's approval came in a resolution issued by the National Economic and Development Authority board, which she heads.

The tariff reduction was meant to lower local beef prices in view of a mad cow disease epidemic that has hit beef-exporting countries in Europe.

The Philippines has been importing beef exclusively from Australia and New Zealand.

Montemayor said the government's decision should bring down the prices of imported live cattle from Australia and New Zealand, which had shot up due to a supply shortage in the world market, the peso's depreciation and high importation tariffs.

Cattle Feedlot Association of the Philippines president Martin Gomez said at 7 percent, the tariff on imported live cattle from Australia and New Zealand amounted to about P30 a kilo.

Napocor to close 3 power plants

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. hopes to save some $2 million a month by decommissioning at least three oil-fired power plant complexes in Luzon this year.

Napocor senior vice president and chief operating officer Asisclo Gonzaga said Napocor would completely stop operating the Sucat plants by October this year.

Commissioned between 1968 and 1972, the four-generator Sucat complex in Parañaque City operates on a remaining capacity of 250 megawatts compared to its total generating capacity of 950 mw.

Gonzaga said the cash-strapped and debt-ridden power firm had placed the Malaya complex merely on "standby by," which meant its two generators would only be operated in cases of emergency.

The bunker fuel-fed Malaya generators in Pililla, Rizal, have a total generating capacity of 650 mw.

CURRENCIES

Apr. 20, 2001 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.114454	1.000000	50.0540
Japan	Yen	0.009202	0.008257	0.4103
United Kingdom	Pound	1.612504	1.446900	72.4231
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142899	0.128223	6.4181
Switzerland	Franc	0.654022	0.586854	29.3744
Canada	Dollar	0.719374	0.645494	32.3096
Singapore	Dollar	0.616914	0.553557	27.7077
Australia	Dollar	0.561014	0.503398	25.1971
Bahrain	Dinar	2.956270	2.652661	132.7763
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.297156	0.266638	13.3463
Brunei	Dollar	0.617427	0.554017	27.7308
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000100	0.000090	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.024585	0.022060	1.1042
UAE	Dirham	0.303435	0.272272	13.6283
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.000770	0.0385
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.897300	44.9135
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.458782	22.9639
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136793	6.8470
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.407177	20.3808
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.065209	3.2640
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022243	1.1134
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000463	0.0232
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150915	7.5539
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004476	0.2240
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005393	0.2699
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022243	1.1134
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.139336	57.0283

The best of Cocolife after 35 years

COCOLIFE celebrated its 35th anniversary last April 4 with a thanksgiving mass and *merienda* for its employee and agency force. The President's Report was delivered by Lawyer Alfredo C. Tumacder, Jr., the Cocolife president himself. He presented the best achievements of Cocolife by citing its premium gains over the years.

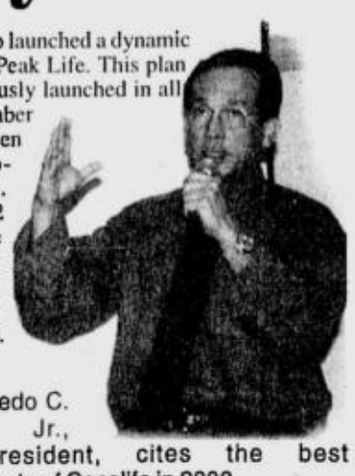
Cocolife's most tangible growth is seen in the number of offices that has spouted nationwide. This branch expansion peaked in 2000 with the addition of 2,065 people that included 13 heads, 84 branch managers, 344 agency managers and 1,624 agents. There has been a restructuring of sales organizations in the three regions and corporate sales offices were set up in Cebu and Davao.

To improve overall operations, Cocolife adopted the CIS Life Software to replace the existing in-house developed system. The new system is seen to bring new products to the market quickly and more efficiently, reduce administrative costs and increase end-user productivity. It is also envisioned to eliminate multiple administration systems, develop a customer-focused operations environment and improve service to agents and policyholders.

In his speech, the Cocolife president also noted the motivational aspects of Cocolife's Best in Service Branch Awards which recognize exemplary performance of branches in improving service efficiency. This award was launched for the first time in 2000 and is given to a branch in recognition of the teamwork between the sales force and the branch personnel. The team efforts are measured in seven areas of performance—underwriting, accounting, policy service, collection efficiency, agency sales support, audit rating and claims. The top five branches for 2000 are Tuguegarao, Bauan, Salcedo, Dagupan and Santiago.

The president also proudly reiterated Cocolife's ISO 2000 Certification as Cocolife is the first insurance company to receive this prestigious citation.

Cocolife also launched a dynamic insurance plan Peak Life. This plan was simultaneously launched in all areas in September 2000 and has been selling exceptionally well. Already, 3,462 policies have been sold, at a total face amount of P873,210,711.86.



LAWYER Alfredo C. Tumacder, Jr., Cocolife president, cites the best accomplishments of Cocolife in 2000.

Cocolife launches Discovery Cruise Asia

A LUXURY cruise to three exotic Asian destinations – Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia--awaits winners of Cocolife's Discovery Cruise Asia, a contest among Cocolife's business partners launched recently.

The contest is open to all underwriters, agency managers and branch managers of Cocolife and covers the period from Jan. 2 to Dec. 31, 2001. The qualifying requirements of Discovery Cruise Asia involves initial premiums, collection efficiency ratio, number of new lives and manpower based on number of retained agents and valid license for the agents and agency managers.

The initial premiums required of underwriters is P500,000, agency managers P1 million and branch managers, P2.5 million. All must have a collection efficiency ratio of 85 percent.

The cruise is part of a continuing effort to motivate Cocolife's people. There have been previous trips for top sales achievers to Sydney, Australia in 2000 and California in 1999.

Discovery Cruise is a sea leisure cruise aboard the biggest ship in Asia – Super Star Virgo and a tour of the best in Southeast Asian destination.

COCOLIFE

TOP SALES ACHIEVERS

SUMMER HOLIDAY IN SPECTACULAR SYDNEY

Today, we give you the freedom to live your dream. For your hard work and for your dedication, Cocolife brings you to Spectacular Sydney. A week long celebration of your sales achievement in 2000.

TOP SALES PERFORMERS

NANCY TANDOC
UNDERWRITER OF THE YEAR
(Northwest Luzon Area)

NENITA CABBUAG
AGENCY MANAGER OF THE YEAR
(Northeast Luzon Area)

JUAN M. CABBUAG
BRANCH MANAGER OF THE YEAR
(Northeast Luzon Area)

REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

UNDERWRITERS

METRO MANILA

1ST Carmela Novales

2ND Gilda Dela Cruz

GREATER LUZON

1ST Geraldine Aquino

2ND Shirley Marie Castillo

3RD Francisca Ligayo

VIS-MIN

1ST Amelia Torres

AGENCY MANAGERS

METRO MANILA

1ST Rachel Arimas

2ND Perlita Asilo

3RD Ma. Elisa Quevada

GREATER LUZON

1ST Liza Ramos

2ND Florida Castillo

3RD Mariavel Relucio

BRANCH MANAGERS

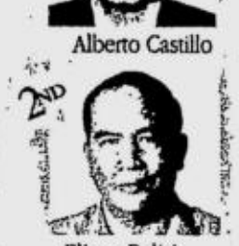
METRO MANILA

1ST Alma Delos Reyes

2ND Ma. Cecilia Badaguas

GREATER LUZON

1ST Alberto Castillo



2ND Eliseo Balisi

VIS-MIN

1ST Dolores Baldeviso

REGIONAL ROOKIE CHAMPIONS

UNDERWRITERS

METRO MANILA

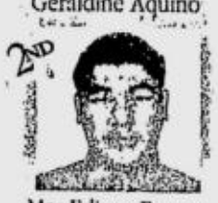
1ST Carmela Novales

2ND Carmela Martin

3RD Catrina Novales

GREATER LUZON

1ST Geraldine Aquino



2ND Mar Edison Ramos

3RD Ma. Analyn Angeles

VIS-MIN

1ST Amelia Torres

AGENCY MANAGERS

METRO MANILA

1ST Perlita Asilo

2ND Marjorie Bernardo

3RD Flora Sayson

GREATER LUZON

1ST Liza Ramos

BRANCH MANAGERS

GREATER LUZON

1ST Cristina Luczon

Good things can last forever, after all

YOUNG men and women who are earning well and have been enjoying the good life should just remember one thing: good things do not last forever.

However, this dictum can be reversed if people make it an effort to put their money in safe investments so that they do not squander what they have earned. Money, if invested properly, can forever provide the good life to those who have the proper perspective and foresight.

In our everyday lives we meet ordinary people who have made a mark without publicity and fanfare. They live quiet, peaceful lives due to their industry, diligence and prudence in handling their financial affairs.

There is, for instance, Edna Cruz, a mother of three who once spent her days aggressively selling jewelry and wisely saved some of it to be able to set a pawnshop.

Today, she manages her business quietly and has time to take care of her three kids who are all of school age. Her seed money, which has multiplied a thousandfold, is used to augment whatever her accountant husband brings home.

Then there is Emy Lazaro who was single until her late thirties. She earned well as busy young executive in a business company and did a lot of travelling. She did not, however, lose sight of the future and invested her money in a productive agricultural venture. Emy got married and had two kids in her forties. She has now settled as a part-time professor but still enjoys the good life, thanks to her prudence and wisdom.

The lives of Edna and Emy can be emulated by investing in Cocolife's Peak Life, a dynamic insurance plan which provides better returns than most savings vehicles.

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For additional information, you can visit www.cocolife.com.ph or call 810-7888.

A NEW Cocolife office located in Cabanatuan City was recently inaugurated with Cocolife officers and Nueva Ecija government officials gracing the event. Shown in photo are (from left) Mayor Noli Co of Licab, Nueva Ecija, Marco Montes, area head, Cocolife Northeast Luzon (behind the mayor), Lawyer Alfredo C.Tumacder, Jr., president, Cocolife; Baby Co, branch manager, Cabanatuan (Cocolife); Rev. Fr. Ruben Ortiz, May F. Joson, wife of Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III.

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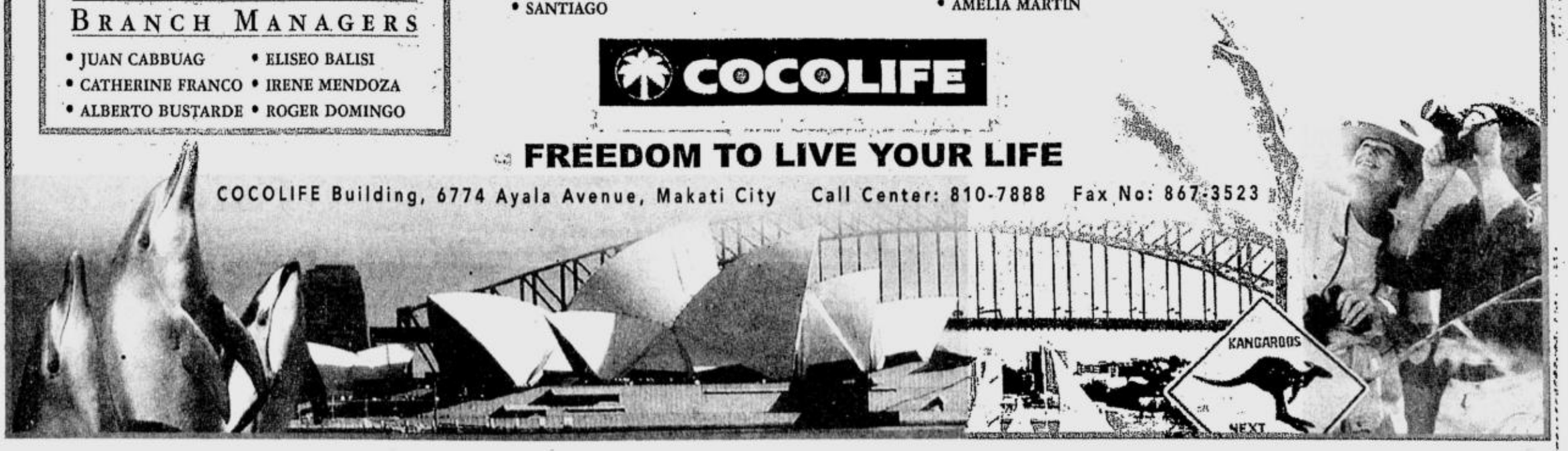

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AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop, Inc. #233 Buendia Shopping Plaza Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City will hold an auction sale on April 28, 2001 at 9:00 AM including all items pawned up to November 2000 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

NUESTRA-DAMUS-NAV PAWNSHOP MAKATI CITY Auction Sale on May 9, 2001 all unredeemed pledges during the month of December 1-31, 2000. Nuestra Br.II-Pio del Pilar-9:30am; Nuestra Br. I-Evangelista-10:30am; Damus Br. I-Pasong Tamo-12:30pm; Nuestra Main JP-1:30pm; NAV Pawnshop 2:00pm; Nuestra Br. IX-Zapote-3:00pm. *Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioneer*

NUESTRA-DIAJADE PAWNSHOP LAS PINAS METRO MANILA
Will have its Auction Sale on May 8, 2001. All unredeemed pledges during the month of December 1-31, 2000. Diajade Main-9:30am; Diajade Br. II-10:30am; Nuestra Br. III-11:30am; Diajade Br. I-1:00pm; Nuestra Almanza-2:00pm.
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Republic of the Philippines
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MUNICIPALITY OF MADALAG
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a Loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Component for which this invitationn to pre-qualify and to bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of Madalag, Aklan, as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, intends to pre-qualify contractors and if pre-qualified, to bid for the rehabilitation/ construction of the Sub-project located in Timbaban ARC, Madalag, Aklan, titled;
   Bacyang - Mercedes - Galicia Road, with a total length of 2.80 kilometers.
   Approved Agency Estimate (AAE) = P7,888,758.60
   Minimum Equipment required:

1 unit	Prime Mover	- Onwed/Leaded
2 units	Bulldozer	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Backhoe	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Grader	- Owned
1 unit	Roller	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Water Truck	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Loader	- Owned
4 units	Dumptruck	- Owned
2 units	2-B Mixer	- Owned
1 unit	Plate compactor	- Owned
2 units	Conc. Vibrator	- Owned

3. Pre-qualification documents and bidding documents may be acquired by interested bidders at the Municipal Hall of Madalag, Aklan from **April 22-27, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for pre-qualification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman, PBAC, Municipality of Madalag, Aklan not later than 5:00 p.m. on **May 4, 2001**.
5. A pre-bidding conference will be held at the Municipal Hall of Madalag, Aklan at 9:00 a.m. on **May 21, 2001**.
6. Submission and opening of bids will be on **June 4, 2001**. No bids will be accepted later than 12:00 Noon. Opening of bids will be at 1:00 p.m. The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 calendar days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
7. The PBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ORLANDO R. INOSANTO
Municipal Mayor/Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Apr 21, 22 & 24, 2001)

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles
1996 Nissan Sentra 1.3/UMC-519
1997 Toyota Hi-Lux P-up/LDV-366
1997 Suzuki Esteem/NSU-777
1998 Ford F-150 P-up/OEV-21606
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For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc./Dick Carino. Tel. # 75-43-457

PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late VICTORIA O. LUSTRE has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. #314; Page#63; Book # 455; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Joel G. Gordola PDI-April 21, 28 & May 5, 2001

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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10-11 AM, 1-2 PM, 5-6 PM
MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2001
6-7 PM & 8-9 PM

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PASAY CITY
METRO MANILA

PRE-REGISTER BY APRIL 25, 2001
TO

DECLAN WALSH, MD
PH# 001-216-444-7793
FAX# 001-216-445-5090
E-MAIL: cloughl@ccf.org

VIDA DELAPAZ R.N.
(ofc.) Telefax 253-0054 (8 a.m. - 5 p.m./Mon.-Fri.)
(res.) Tel# 712-2835 (after 5 p.m.)
Mobile Phone# 0919-5833534

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
NAME
ADDRESS
PHONE NUMBER
Date Of Birth (DOB)
NURSING LICENSE NUMBER AND OR GSIS
Hosted by the Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.

SAN PEDRO COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Old National Highway, San Pedro, Laguna
Tel. 869-1573 / 698-9971
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TAXATION
- With at least one (1) year teaching experience in taxation
- Must be a CPA

COMPUTER
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science
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PLEASE SUBMIT APPLICATION AND CREDENTIALS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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NURSES/OT/PT/SPEECH THERAPIST & ULTRASOUND TECH.

SEMINAR: APRIL 21 & 22- 8-5 PM AT
CHARTER HOUSE #1-114 LEGASPI ST., LEGASPI VILLAGE, MAKATI
(ACROSS GREENBELT MALL)
NURSES SIGN UP+ RELOCATION BONUS
BRING BIO-DATA, COLORED PICTURE (2X2) IN UNIFORM
PRC DIPLOMA/LICENSE & OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS
CONTACT: Dr. Castro (02) 817-6001
IN CEBU: NURSES: April 24 & 26 FREE SEMINAR, 8-5 P.M.
OT/PT/ULTRASOUND TECH.: APRIL 25- 8-5 PM P400.00 SEMINAR FEE
AT DR. J.C. BORROMEO BLDG., GOV. M. ROA ST.
(AT THE BACK OF CEBU DOCTORS HOSPITAL)
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WANTED FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2001-2002

GRADE SCHOOL TEACHERS

PREPARATORY (MAJOR IN CHILD STUDY AND DEVELOPMENT)
ELEMENTARY (BEEd - MATH, ENGLISH, SCIENCE, ARALING PANLIPUNAN)

APPLICANTS MUST BE CATHOLIC, NOT MORE THAN 35 YEARS OLD, WITH ABOVE AVERAGE SCHOLASTIC RECORDS AND MUST HAVE PASSED THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR TEACHERS.

COME FOR PERSONAL INTERVIEW ON APRIL 24, 2001 FROM 8:00 A.M - 3:00 PM AND BRING YOUR TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS.

On the instructions of Colliers Jardine Philippines on their move to their new offices at RCBC Plaza

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SUPERB QUALITY MODERN OFFICE FURNITURE
OVER 50 LOTS INCLUDING: -

OFFICE FURNITURE - Office Workstations; Work Surfaces; Clerical Chairs; Steel Pedestal Drawers; Four/Two Door Steel Filing Cabinets; Two Door Lateral Steel Filing Cabinets; White Boards; Reception Desks; Wall Cabinets; Kitchen Cabinet w/ Sink; Horizontal Blinds; COOL CREST Split Type Air Conditioners, HOMARK Single Door Refrigerator etc.

AT: 14/F, Planters Bank Building, 314 Sen. Gil. Puyat Avenue, Makati City
ON: Saturday, 21st April 2001 at 2:00pm
ON VIEW: Saturday, 21st April 2001, 9:00am -2:00pm
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php10,000 (Upon Registration)

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Industrial Auctioneers & Valuers
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www.henrybutcher.com

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PROCUREMENT & LOGISTICS SERVICE
Bldg. 26 San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. No. (632) 743-83-01 loc. 3626 & 3627

April 13, 2001

INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB NO. 2001-5-24 [1] & [2]

The Department of Health hereby invites sealed written bids for the provision of the following services for the calendar year 2001 on the following scheduled calendar of activities:

		PRE-BIDDING	OPENING OF BIDS
I	SECURITY SERVICES (IFB No. 2001-5-24 [1])	May 9, 2001 @ 9:00 a.m.	May 24, 2001 @ 10:00 a.m.
II.	JANITORIAL SERVICES (IFB No. 2001-5-24 [2])	May 9, 2001 @ 11:00 a.m.	May 24, 2001 @ 2:00 p.m.

All the above activities will be held at the Multi Media Center of Excellence, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Interested parties who can provide the above services may obtain bid documents from the Procurement and Logistics Service, Department of Health, Manila from **April 30 to May 21, 2001 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** and upon submission of letter of intent and payment of non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos only (PhP 2,000.00)** for each bidding documents.

Bids must be delivered on or before the scheduled opening date, time and place. Prior to bid opening, pre-bid conference will be held as indicated on the above schedule.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bidder's bond in the form of the following: (a) Unconditional Bank Guarantee. (b) Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a reputable bank, (c) G.S.I.S. Bond. (d) Manager's Check. (e) Cashier's/Certified Check or (f) Any combination of the above proportionate to share of form with respect to total amount of security in the amount of **two and a half (2.5%) percent** and must be valid for **thirty days (30) beyond the validity of bid.**

For further information, please contact **Ms. Carolina P. Horradura**, Director, or **Ms. Bernadette G. Ipac**, Chief, Procurement Division of the Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. 26, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila or call 743-83-01 local 3626 & 3627 or 338-34-13.

The Department of Health hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the Department of Health and to Local Health Units.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:
(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office-Bid and Awards Committee

(PDI--April 21, 22 & 29, 2001)

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga
Tel. No. 900-06-89, 900-04-74
Fax. No. (0450 900-00-92)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

PELCO II invites suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and if subsequently found qualified to bid for the SUPPLY, DELIVERY and INSTALLATION of:

Package 004-2001:

I. Security Services
II. General body repair, painting, complete electrical & upholstery (KIA/CERES).
III. 15 KV Current Transformer — 10 pcs.
15 KV Potential Tranformer — 10 pcs.
120 Volts KWH Meter Form 9 S — 9 pcs.
120 Volts KWH Meter Form 3 S — 1 pc.
IV. GUAGUA Sub Station fence and steel Gate

The pre-qualification forms may be secured from the PBAC Secretariat, PELCO II Main office, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga, from **April 23, 2001** to **April 30, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE HUNDRED PESOS (P100.00). Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted not later than 5:00 P.M. on **May 2, 2001.**

Pre-Qualification meeting is scheduled on **May 3,** at 10:00 AM at Pelco II Main Building, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga.

All pre-qualified bidders may obtain the necessary bid documents after paying a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) Main office at San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga starting **May 4** to **May 9, 2001.**

Bidding will be announced later. For additional inquiries, please call the PBAC Secretariat at (045) 900-0474 or 900-0850.

(Sgd) ENER D. PANGAN
Chairman
PELCO II – PBAC

(PDI – April 19, 20 & 21, 2001)

Townshend IT Canada

Canadian Certified World Class Computer Training

Townshend College of Business & Computers, based in Toronto, Canada and the West Indies is expanding into the Philippines and opening the first **Townshend IT Canada** school in Makati City.

These IT courses are post-graduate and designed specifically for individuals who have a four year degree in any discipline (not necessarily a technical degree)

You are invited to a FREE!!!

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Classes will be starting soon - Don't miss out - Get information you need for career success now.

Date : Tuesday, April 24, 2001
Time : 5:30 p.m.
Place : Inter-Continental Hotel, No. 1 Ayala Avenue, 1226 Makati

Call (632) 817-2397 now to reserve your seat (Seating is limited)
Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served

MAPP FOUNDATION

(Mutual Assistance For Philippine Professional Foundation)

MEMBERSHIP INVITATION AND JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

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First Term Trainees	OPEN FOR NURSING PROFESSIONALS to accommodate 750 students/trainee as per schedule Selected by way of Intermediate exams
Qualifications	below 45 years old Graduates of Nursing or medical schools or colleges
Second Term Trainee	OPEN FOR CAR & PRECISION MECHANIC to accommodate 1500 students
Qualifications	Below 45 years old Graduate of College or Vocational Schools
Duration	6-12 months
Schedule	Monday to Friday / Saturday, Sundays and Holidays
Accommodation	50 students per class 15 to 17 classes (Two Shifts)
Third Term Trainees	OPEN TO VARIOUS TRADE OCCUPATIONS
After Third Term	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) for Engineers

Applicants Orientation Meeting
May 19, 2001, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Philippine International Convention Center
CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Deadline for submisson of Application
First Term Students - May 21, 2001
Final Selection - May 31, 2001

FOR REGISTRATION AND PRE QUALIFICATION SUBMIT OR SEND RESUME 2-2 X2 COLORED PICTURES, DIPLOMA OR CERTIFICATE TO MANILA OFFICE ONLY

MANILA OFFICE: 3rd Floor, Suite 25 LEGASPI TOWERS 300 Roxas Boulevard, cor. VitoCruz, Malate, Manila Tel 525-5387, 536-5451 Email www.mapp@maap.org.ph

CAVITE: Don Bosco Executive Village, Governors Drive Brgy. Cabuco, Trece Martires

(NOTE: ACCEPTANCE OF REGISTRATION WILL START ON APRIL 17, 2001)

JOB OPENING

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SECRETARY / Reception Area
- Female college graduate
- 20 to 25 years old, 5'3 to 5'5 height
- pleasing personality is highly required
- knowledge in computer and typing
- honest and hardworking

SECRETARY
- Female 20 to 30 years old
- 5'2 to 5'5 hgt., pleasing personality
- knowledge in computer & typing
- w/ 2 years experience in an International Agency

POEA / EMBASSY LIASON OFFICER
- Male or female, with pleasing personality
- Knowledge in computer and typing
- W/ at 2 years experience in an International Agency
- Honest and hardworking

REQUIREMENTS:-
Resumé w/ 4pcs. Recent 2x2 photo, cert. of employment, NBI, Police & Brgy Clearance & college diploma for "1"

INTERVIEW: APRIL 17 & 23, 2001 / 10:AM - 3:PM

MAPP INTERNATIONAL
3rd Flr. Suite 25 Legaspi Towers 300 Roxas Blvd., cor., Vito Cruz, Malate, Manila Tel. #525-5387 536-5451

Phil. Tobacco Flue-Curing And Redrying Corp.
(PTFC)

INVITATION TO BID

The PTFC invites interested parties to purchase thru sealed bids on "as is where is" basis-Cold storage (5.5m W x 14m L x 3.5m H) and various eqpt. and supplies for a total asking price of P785,000.00.

The auction shall be held on **April 27, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the office premises of PTFC located at 802 A. Bonifacio St., Balintawak, Quezon City. For further details, pls. contact the undersigned at tel. no. 362-1808/367-6647

(Sgd.) **Ferdinand P. Austria**
Asst. Vice President

(PDI - Apr. 21, 2001)

Targeting dietary fat to control obesity

NUMEROUS studies linked obesity to dietary habits in adulthood and childhood. Obesity was mainly attributed to excessive consumption of high-fat energy-dense foods and drinks, along with an increasingly sedentary lifestyle, and a striking imbalance between energy intake and energy expenditure.

Society had hoped to subdue obesity simply by greater self-control in eating behaviors. Understanding its causes and consequences, however, obesity became perceived eventually as a chronic relapsing disease that required long-term medical management. The standard initial approach to the management of obesity classically involved diet modification and dietary education, combined with a moderate physical activity program.

There was a previous reliance on drugs acting on the central nervous system that suppressed appetite and cause faster feeling of fullness. However, these centrally acting agents manifested troublesome side effects. Hence, there was a need for new therapeutic options that would not act on the central nervous system.

Targeting dietary fat, the main culprit of obesity, provides an entirely new approach to the management of obesity. Rather than suppressing the appetite through the central nervous system, the new therapeutic option sought to directly act instead on the gastrointestinal tract, thus avoiding the side effects experienced with earlier treatments.

The breakthrough came in the form of the first and only non-systematically acting lipase inhibitor, Xenical. It was called "non-systemic" because it acted only on the gastrointestinal tract. Xenical inhibits the action of pancreatic lipases in the small intestine, blocking 30 percent of fat, thus decreasing significantly the digestion and absorption of triglycerides.

Time Magazine awarded Xenical's breakthrough in obesity management as "2000's Best in Science" at the start of the millennium.

Backed by 30 years of research before introduction into the market, Xenical underwent the most comprehensive and longest clinical study ever conducted on any anti-obesity agent. With its weight-reducing effect, Xenical also decreases obesity-associated risks such as high blood pressure, blood sugar levels, high cholesterol, high triglycerides, and sleep apnoea. Xenical is available in more than 100 countries worldwide with 10 million patients enjoying its benefits.

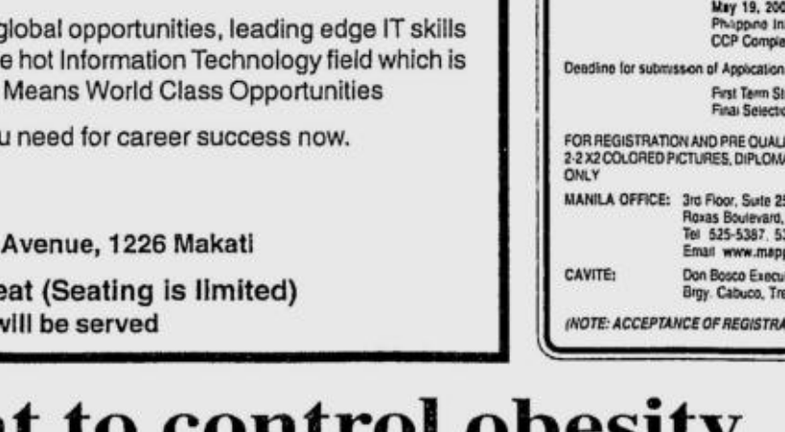
Major movements at FPDSavills

FPDSavills Ltd. recently bared key management promotions in their Philippines and Singapore operations.

Jonathan Hannam, FPDSavills Philippines managing director, will take on a more regional role and relocate to Singapore and at the same time retain responsibilities for the Philippines. In Singapore, he will lead a new regional development team where he will identify and develop opportunities in commercial, residential and investment sectors.

The day-to-day Philippine operations will now be overseen by David T. Leechiu, who assumes the post of director. Leechiu, formerly associate director for commercial agency, will continue to report to Hannam. Cristia Bonifacio was named senior manager, commercial agency. She is tasked to grow the sole agency appointments of FPDSavills.

Simon Haynes, managing director of FPDSavills (Hong Kong) central management, lauded the exemplary growth and dynamic teamwork of the Philippines operations under the guidance of Hannam. Explaining the key movements, Haynes said top executives from the London parent company met recently with regional operations in Singapore and identified a number of business opportunities in the region. The officials agreed to capitalize on the developing businesses being generated between the Philippines and Singapore and other parts of the South East Asian region.



INTERNET COMMUNITY

The 1999 anti-poverty organization founded by Cisco Systems and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) strengthens its ties with the local community via the "Cisco Systems' eCommerce World Expo" recently held at the Megatrade Hall. Netaid.org uses the Internet to empower people to take action on extreme poverty around the world. To become a Netaid online volunteer, log on to www.netaid.org.

INQUIRER
RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Ballpoint pen

Q. How is the ball fitted into a ballpoint pen?

A. The ball, which transfers fast-drying, oil-based ink onto paper, is usually made of stainless steel and ground to an accuracy of a few thousandths of a millimeter. About 1 millimeter in diameter, it may also be made of a tungsten and carbon compound which is almost as hard as a diamond. The ball is fitted into a steel or brass housing, designed so that it can rotate in all directions. The tip of the housing is then bent over so that the ball cannot drop out. The ink is fed from a reservoir to the ball housing through a narrow tube. The ink reservoir must be open to the air, or have a hole in it. Otherwise, as the ink level falls a partial vacuum would be created preventing the ink from flowing. Ridges in the metal housing distribute the ink evenly around the ball, so that when it is moved over a surface it rotates and draws a line.

Name Game. Bic. The popular make of ballpoint pen takes its name from Marcel and Gonzalve Bich, the French brothers who developed an industrial process that dramatically lowered the cost of ballpoint production near Paris in 1953. Initially, they had the product named after themselves, but realizing it would be incorrectly pronounced in the American market as *bitch*, they smartly dropped the 'h' and simply called the pen 'Bic.'

First of All. The world's first motor race tool place on April 20, 1887, in Paris, a brainchild of the French cycling magazine *La Velocipede*. The race resulted in a walkover for a Frenchman named Georges Bouton, who completed the course from Saint-James along the Seine River to the bridge at Neuilly in his four-seater steam quadcycle.

WORD WATCH

Bisikleta : from the Spanish *bicicleta*, 'bicycle.'

PDI -- April 21, 2001

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Day before publication

Daddy, your presence will be deeply
Missed, but the memories of your love
And goodness will live with us and
remains in our heart forever.

JULIAN T. ESTOLANO

Peacefully returned to GOD,
The lord He loved and served
Faithfully on April 19, 2001
At the age of 94.

His dearest daughters, **Erlinda**, **Emelita** and **Edna**, deceased sons, **Reynaldo** and **Rodolfo**; grandchildren and in-laws; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, #12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

The family of the late
Mayor of Bacolod City,
Governor and Congressman of
Negros Occidental

FELIX P. AMANTE, SR.

of Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

Peacefully joined his Creator
on April 17, 2001 at the age of 92.

His bereaved wife **Adela**; children **Rosanna, Ma. Cecilia, Christine, Felix Victor, Mary Joy, Frances Ann** and their spouses and his children from the late **Salud Torrecarrion, Felix Jr., Chita, Cleofe, Maritess, Dr. Patria Ocampo** (†), **Felix III (Totie), Vicky** and their spouses, and all his grandchildren and his brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels, Mandalagan, Bacolod City.

Necrological services will be held at the Provincial Administration Bldg. on Wednesday, April 25, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. Interment will be on Thursday, April 26, 2001 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Rolling Hills Memorial Park.

INOCENCIO T. ALIAS, SR.

April 26, 1912 - April 12, 2001
Of Laoag City and Tagum City

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 12, 2001 at the age of 88.

His wife **FLORIPES**; children and in-laws **Myrna Jane, Elmer** and **Luz, Dinah, Delpha** and **Antonio, Inocencio Jr.**, and **Elsa**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence in Teachers Village, Tagum City.

Interment today, April 21, 2001 at the Glorious Resurrection Memorial Park, Tagum City, after the 12:00 noon Holy Mass.

EUGENIA GUEVARRA JAVIER

of Marinduque and Manila

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on April 18, 2001 at the age of 62.

Her bereaved husband **Raymundo**; children **Rowena, Ruby Rose, Rosanna** and **Raymond Joseph**; sons-in-law **Arthur Maglaqui** and **Paulino Yusi**; grandchildren **Bryan, Patrick, Paulo, Mon Mon** and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel B6 La Funeraria Paz Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be in the afternoon of Tuesday April 24, 2001 at the North Cemetery.

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

ANTONIO HENSON RAMOS

of Mabalacat, Pampanga

Peacefully joined our Creator on
April 6, 2001 at the age of 77.

His loving children **Ismael, Ma. Elisa (Melliza), Marites**; granddaughter **Mary Elizabeth** remember him with love and request prayers for his eternal repose.

His remains are interred at the Garden of the Risen Christ, Magallanes Village.

REV. FR. WILLIAM A. SCHOCK, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Friday, 20 April 2001

Wake : Oratory of St. Ignatius Loyola, Loyola House of Studies, Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Quezon City (Concelebrated Mass every evening at 8:00 p.m.)

Mass of Christian Burial : Sunday, 22 April 2001, 8:00 p.m. Loyola House of Studies

Interment : Monday, 23 April 2001 at Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery Immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Oratory of the Sacred Heart, Sacred Heart Novitiate, Novaliches, Quezon City

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
John 14:6

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
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CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
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Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133 • Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
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Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
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(045) 322-5247 ; (045) 888-2959
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
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HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291
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#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
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Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City Tel. 434-3258

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795
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REEXAMINING PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE

Why PPA is not that bad

(First of two parts)

BY CHARLES BUBAN

(Nearly five months ago, America's and perhaps the world's most commonly used nonprescription medication for cough-cold remedies and appetite suppressants met a tragic ending: the United States Food and Drug Administration declared phenylpropanolamine or PPA not safe.

Phenylpropanolamine's sudden fell from grace forced drug manufacturers to pull their affected products off store shelves and look for a safer replacement. On the other hand, households everywhere have become much more cautious, taking a second look at their medicine for PPA ingredient it might contain.

But was the American ban on PPA applicable in Philippine setting? The Department of Health believes otherwise.)

ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE is a very versatile substance used in cold relief drugs. As a nasal decongestant, PPA relieves stuffy nose or sinus congestion and the substance is often used as an appetite suppressant and dietary aid. Since it is chemically related to amphetamine, among its notable effects are increasing your heart rate and stimulating cardiovascular system.

Each year, billions of doses of PPA are consumed in the United States, making PPA one of the most commonly used nonprescription medications. During the early '70s, the US Food and Drug Administration initiated a scientific review of all over-the-counter drug products to determine the safety and effectiveness of products marketed in the country. That review included PPA.

In 1976, one expert panel recommended that PPA be generally recognized as safe and effective as a nasal decongestant, and in 1982 another expert panel recommended that PPA be generally recognized as safe and effective for weight control. However, the FDA did not finalize a safe and effective status for PPA because of concerns about occasional reports of hemorrhagic stroke associated with using the drug.

Recurring cases

Hemorrhagic stroke occurs when blood vessels that are damaged or dead from lack of blood supply, located within an area of infarcted brain tissue, rupture and transform an "ischemic" stroke into a "hemorrhagic" stroke (an ischemia results from inadequate oxygen supply in the tissue caused by reduced blood flow; infarction is tissue death resulting from ischemia). In the United States, hemorrhagic stroke occurs in about 5 out of 10,000 people.

Since 1979, over 30 published case reports have described the occurrence of intracranial hemorrhage after taking PPA. Early reports involved diet pills containing both PPA and caffeine, a combination that was removed from the US market in 1983 because of abuse potential.

Later reports involved use of PPA alone, often as a reported first-ever dose. Like the earlier ones, however, the later reports primarily involved PPA in diet pills. Affected patients were mostly young persons, particularly women, aged 17 to 45 years old. At least five reports, however, involved PPA in cough-cold preparations. Other than these case reports, there has been only one study published in 1984 involving PPA and stroke.

The 1984 study looked at the occurrence of cerebral hemorrhage among patients aged less than 65 years who filed a prescription for PPA between 1977 and 1981. The authors, who were connected to a large health maintenance organization, concluded that any hemorrhage risk related to the substance, if present at all, is very small since the relative risk for hemorrhage for PPA users compared to nonusers was found to be insignificant.

But because of continued reports of hemorrhagic stroke potentially associated with PPA, the FDA in 1992 asked the American pharmaceutical industry to conduct a study that will evaluate the risk of hemorrhagic stroke from taking PPA. Based on previous recommendations of expert panels, PPA was allowed, nevertheless, to be marketed while the study was being conducted.

Since several case reports involved young women using PPA in appetite suppressant and often after first dose, the FDA and manufacturers identified women as high priority in the upcoming research.

Hemorrhagic stroke project

In response, investigators at five American universities collaborated with the FDA to form a case–control study called the Hemorrhagic Stroke Project and designed the following objectives:

- To estimate the association between PPA and hemorrhagic stroke among men and women aged 18-49 years.
- To estimate the association between PPA and hemorrhagic stroke by type of PPA exposure (cough-cold remedy or appetite suppression).
- To estimate the association between first use of PPA and hemorrhagic stroke and the association between PPA in appetite suppressants and hemorrhagic stroke among the same target group and among women aged 18-49 years.

In May 2000, Yale University submitted before the FDA its study titled "Phenylpropanolamine and Risk of Hemorrhagic Stroke: Final Report of the Hemorrhagic Stroke Project," and was published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The said report covered the months from December 1994 to July 1999 and involved 702 patients between the ages of 18 and 49 and who had suffered from hemorrhagic strokes.

The stroke patients were matched on the basis of age, gender, race and geographic location with control subjects numbering 1,376 who had not had a stroke.

The study found evidence that linked PPA to stroke patients, who were found to be 50 percent more likely than the control subjects to have used PPA within three days of the onset of their stroke symptoms. These risk factors indicate that as many as 200 to 500 people suffer PPA-related strokes in the United States each year.

The study also reported an association between PPA use and hemorrhagic stroke in women. It also found that women who took PPA as an appetite suppressant were as much as 15 times as likely as other women to suffer hemorrhagic stroke. First-time users of the ingredient were three times as likely to suffer a stroke.

The study also found that there is an increased risk for women using PPA for weight control in the three days after they start using the drug and for those women using nasal decongestant product with PPA within the first day of use. According to the study, although it showed that the risk was found mostly in women, men may also be at risk.

FDA reaction

On Oct. 19, 2000, FDA's Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee discussed the Yale Study and other information on PPA. After determining the association between PPA and hemorrhagic stroke, the NDAC recommended that PPA "not be considered generally recognized as safe for over-the-counter use as a nasal decongestant or for weight control."

Although the risk was very low, the FDA was significantly concerned, nonetheless, because of the seriousness of the PPA's irreversible outcome and the inability to predict who are the others at risk. Furthermore, the FDA does not consider the conditions for which PPA is used as justifying the risk.

After agreeing with the NDAC recommendation, the FDA planned on removing PPA as an ingredient in over-the-counter and prescription drug products. It has notified all manufacturers, repackers and distributors of any prescription or over-the-counter drug product containing PPA of the report and requested that they discontinue marketing drug products containing PPA. If applicable, the FDA recommended that they reformulate the product without PPA.

A panel of scientific experts on Oct. 19, 2000 reviewed the Yale study and, in a series of votes, recommended overwhelmingly that the FDA remove PPA from over-the-counter products. The panel did not consider whether the ingredient should be permitted in prescription drugs.

On Nov. 6, 2000, the FDA came out with a warning to quit using dozens of over-the-counter cold remedies and diet pills that contain the substance. Since it has estimated that between 200 and 500 strokes each year may be attributable to PPA, the FDA came out with an unusually strong warning to consumers that says, "We suggest you stop taking the drug immediately and use an alternative."

The warning covers 400 products but the legal steps needed for a ban will take a few months, so the FDA asked manufacturers to voluntarily stop selling PPA-containing drugs immediately and replace the ingredient with a safer alternative.

In issuing the sweeping public health advisory, FDA officials asked the manufacturers of all PPA products, 100 companies in all, to stop marketing them voluntarily while the agency drafted new regulations that will effectively ban the ingredient from all pharmaceuticals.

To enact a permanent ban, the FDA is looking at issuing a new regulation governing over-the-counter products and seeking public comment.

Industry reaction

After the release of the FDA warning, most of the largest pharmacy chains and drug manufacturers began withdrawing cold remedies and appetite suppressants including some that have been staples in medicine cabinets for decades.

The FDA request sent drug store and pharmaceutical executives scrambling to respond and most are attempting to comply. In the United States, officials at the Walgreens, CVS and Rite-Aid pharmacy chains have immediately removed PPA products from their shelves. Drugmakers SmithKline Beecham and Bristol-Myers Squibb no longer market cold products containing the controversial substance.

Meanwhile, Drugstore.com has removed all products containing PPA from its web site while a spokesman for Bristol-Myers Squibb said it has already moving to reformulate its products. With the industry's similar reaction, it seems PPA days are numbered.

(Next week: RP reacts on FDA ban)

Simon Magus, a reprise

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

I RECEIVED several reactions to the piece on Simon Mhgus and the King James Bible (Aug. 7, 2000). Here are excerpts from the most interesting one, by C. J. Feld, Swallow Road, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo, Rizal 1820.

The King James bible is without any doubt a brilliant translation of the Bible, but very young compared to the Septuagint, not to mention more recent discoveries—even fractional—like the Dead Sea Scrolls or the Al Hamadi Scrolls in upper Egypt. Even these early documents have to be critically studied. In comparison with Philo and Flavius Josephus (who were excellent historians), very few cross-checks to Jesus and His followers can be made.

This leads us to Simon Magus. Was he an antichrist? Surely not! He was only one of those hundreds (if not thousands) of sorcerers, magicians and prophets, who swamped the whole of Palestine in those days. He wanted to increase his power and he knew it had a price. It was business as usual in those times. Perhaps he did not offer enough.

The corruption in church circles in those days was so widespread that these excesses were already condemned in 421 at the Council of Chalcedon. This seemed to have no effect, as in the 11th century, Pope Gregory VII tried some reforms, which had no results either. Not until the Indulgences of the Archbishop of Mainz in Germany (who had to pay big amounts to Pope Leo X as a *pasalubong* for his appointment as archbishop) triggered the Reformation by Martin Luther and blew the Roman Church to bits and pieces. All thanks to simony! By 1510, when Luther visited the Vatican as a representative of the Augustinian order, he was shocked to find corruption in the highest ecclesiastical circles and a free-wheeling sex life, all inherited from Alexander VI and his Borgia clan and countless illegitimate children. Alexander VI got his papacy through wholesale bribery, put his children in high places, and everything went to the highest bidder. His name for historians now is synonymous with bribery and simony.

The Catholic Church was also involved in politics in our time—an outrage would be their support of Mussolini and Hitler.

How about excesses in the Philippines? Years ago I saw the bill for a wedding in a famous church in Manila. I was shocked to read the specifications—every carpet, every flower had its price! The bill was outrageous! Surely many weddings on a busy Sunday would entail such expenses, too. I once met a couple who wanted a plain simple wedding Unluckily, they were sandwiched as a "fill-in" between two big weddings. They got all the unwanted luxury for free and they did not like it at all.

By the way, is there any bookstore in the Philippines where I can buy books in Latin or old Greek, like Caesar's "De Bello Gallico" or Homer or Herodot or Plato? Where in the Philippines are Latin and old Greek taught? I do not dare to ask if old Hebrew is taught somewhere.

Interesting letter, isn't it? The history lesson is a plus, and there are some points for us to ponder. However, I have to state for the record that the present Pope finally "apologized" to the Jews for the Catholic support of Hitler. A bit late, but better late than never, I always say.

I believe Latin and Greek (and possibly Hebrew) are taught at seminaries. As for books in those languages, universities' libraries may have copies. I don't know of any bookstore that sells them commercially, but perhaps you can go online and order directly from there. Or perhaps you can visit the Customer Service section of Powerbooks, who can assist you in your request.

* * *

G. Santos of Las Piñas City asks about aromatherapy:

I read your article about the relationships among smell, memory and emotion (The Fascination of Scent, July 22, 2000). I am a college student majoring in biology and currently conducting a research on aromatherapy—whether it can relieve stress among college students. Are there any researches or journals published regarding this story? If so, what were the results? I hope you can give me this information as a basis for my research. Thank you and God bless.

I have not come across any refered research (in a biology or psychology journal) which shows conclusively that aromatherapy can relieve stress. However, I am sure you know of people who swear by this. What can be more relaxing than an aromatherapy massage after a hard day at school or work?

However, you can access the Internet, which I did—and I found loads of information about aromatherapy. I will not give you the findings here (because you are supposed to be the one doing the research) but I can assure you that you will find a lot in the Net. Just be careful about information being peddled by commercial sites, which of course have a lot to gain by touting positive results!

One tip---go the search engine and access sites which are linked to universities and research institutes (there are a lot of them out there). Their findings make for interesting reading. Good luck and God bless you, too!

* * *

Send your questions to me c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Mathematics Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail me at queena@mathsci.math.admu.edu.ph.

Menopausal matters

MENOPAUSE is something that every woman must inevitably experience during the latter part of her life. However, this natural occurrence is most often misunderstood by a lot of women, that's why the Department of Health (DOH), through its Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project, aims to shed light on the facts about menopause.

Occurring in women between ages 40 and 55, menopause is a transition period in a woman's life when the ovaries stop producing egg cells, the body decreases the production of female hormones estrogen and progesterone, and menstruation becomes less frequent and eventually stops. There are a few common symptoms of menopause and how these can be relieved.

Hot flashes—This is a sudden sensation of warmth, even intense heat, that spreads over various parts of the body, especially the chest, face and head. These are caused by increased blood flow in the affected areas. Simply wear comfortable clothing and avoid or reduce the intake of caffeine or spicy foods.

Vaginal dryness—This is brought about by the thinning of the tissues in the vaginal wall and a decrease in vaginal moisture due to hormonal changes. This may lead to pain during intercourse so take a warm bath before having sex or apply water-based lubricants like KY Jelly or mineral oil on your vagina.

Lack of sexual drive—Painful or uncomfortable intercourse is often the reason behind this symptom while some women experience this because of negative feelings about themselves. Seek counseling or exchange experiences with other menopausal women and know there's nothing wrong with you.

Mood changes—Some women can swing from being in a "good mood" to bouts of loneliness, depression or even extreme irritability that a woman feels she's "going crazy." If you experience this, there's nothing wrong with you, it's just that you are reacting to changes in your body. Seek counseling to learn strategies for coping with emotional changes.

Remember that menopause is a natural part of life and does not need to be prevented. It is not a disease or even a health crisis The DOH recommends that you consult with your gynecologist regularly, have Pap Smears, eat right, exercise habitually and make positive lifestyle changes so you will feel a lot better.

The case of the impulsive teenager

MEDICAL FILES

BY RAFAEL CASTILLO, MD

DR. Abner Andaya quivered as he signed the death certificate of his patient Sandra who died of suicidal drug ingestion. Nine years of medical school, four years of residency training to become a specialist and three years of private practice could not prepare him for a situation like this. Sandra died of massive brain hemorrhage and fatal abnormal beating of the heart after taking 20 tablets of a cold preparation containing phenylpropanolamine. She and her boyfriend just had a serious quarrel. She was 15 years old.

Sandra soon went into coma after reaching the hospital. But before she slipped into coma, she managed to mumble, "I regret what I did. I didn't mean to kill myself. Please save me!"

It was too late though. She had ingested an excessive amount of phenylpropanolamine that was way above the toxic level. She did it on impulse, but there was no way she could take back what she had done. Her blood pressure went up to dangerous levels. Her heartbeat was fast and irregular. Emergency CAT scan of the brain showed massive hemorrhage. The heart monitor hooked to her chest showed all types of life-threatening rhythms.

Suicide triggers

"Why did she have to do it?" Dr. Andaya shook his head as he and his residents tried to do everything to resuscitate Sandra. Sandra's case used to be unheard of but it is no longer an isolated case in these modern times. Socio-cultural factors, excessive peer and family pressures, personality disturbances, impact of television shows, movies and print publications all play contributory roles in the increasing incidence of teenage suicide in both developed and developing countries.

Predisposing factors include a history of suicide in family members or close friends, drug abuse and conduct disorders. The usual precipitating factors in adolescent and teenage suicide often involve loss of self-esteem, loss of boyfriend or girlfriend, and loss of familiar surroundings (school, neighborhood, friends) due to a change in residence.

Parental pressure to succeed with a feeling of falling short of expectations may also be a suicide trigger. The one committing the suicide usually have the distorted notion that they are punishing the object of his or her anger. "You'll be sorry when I'm dead!" is a common suicide threat. Early family and community interventions to support predisposed youths at risk of committing suicide are imperative. Disregarding a suicide threat by a negative or unsupportive family response is ominous and usually leads to a sad outcome. Expressions of love and concern by the family make a positive outcome likely.

Phenylpropanolamine hydrochloride or PPH is a useful decongestant in the nasal and upper respiratory tract mucosal membranes. In the proper therapeutic dosages, it helps relieve symptoms in cases of common colds and other respiratory tract infections. But like most useful drugs, in excessive dosages, it can be harmful and even be life threatening.

The structure of PPH is very similar to that of ephedrine, which is a potent vasoconstrictor and stimulant of the sympathetic nervous system; hence, they are called sympathomimetics. In big doses, sympathomimetics may cause giddiness, nervousness, rapid heartbeat or palpitations, nausea, vomiting, headache, sweating, restlessness and insomnia. Some may even have delusions and hallucinations. In excessive amounts, one may develop fatal arrhythmias or irregular heartbeat, excessive elevation of the blood pressure with rupture of the blood vessels in the brain, convulsions, coma, cardio-respiratory failure and death.

Inducing vomiting

In case of accidental or suicidal ingestion of excessive amounts of PPH, the patient may be induced to vomit with drugs like ipecac syrup together with 8 to 12 fluid ounces of water. If vomiting is not induced after 15 minutes, the dose of ipecac can be increased. Inducing vomiting however should not be done in unconscious or drowsy patients since the risk of aspiration is high in those with impaired consciousness.

Following vomiting, any drug remaining in the stomach may be adsorbed by administration of activated charcoal with water. If vomiting is unsuccessful or could not be induced due to impaired consciousness, inserting a naso-gastric tube through the nose into the stomach and cleansing the stomach called gastric ravage is recommended. In cases of ingestion of slow-release decongestants, saline cathartics such as milk of magnesia may also be given to facilitate evacuation of granules or pellets that have not yet released the PPH.

Dialysis, which is life saving in some cases of poisoning or toxicity, has not been reported to be effective in the treatment of PPH overdosage.

Dr. Andaya signed Sandra's death certificate with a heavy feeling. It was way past midnight when he left the hospital. As he walked to the parking lot, the lifeless image of Sandra and her last words kept flashing in his mind. He knew that even in the best of hands and facilities, there was nothing else that could have been done for Sandra at that point. But the bothersome feeling persisted. And his questions kept nagging and repeating in his mind like a broken record, "What's happening to our society? What has happened to our youth's values?"

As he turned at the corner, Dr. Andaya looked at the lighted façade of the Manila Sanitarium and Hospital from his rearview mirror. He heaved a sigh and whispered a short prayer, "Lord, please strengthen our families and grant that there be no more Sandras anywhere, else in the world."

Fighting childhood asthma with Buteyko breathing method

CHILDHOOD asthma is a most dreaded monster. Parents of asthmatic children know this too well. They live in constant fear as they suffer to see their children gasping for breath, trying to get enough air into his or her lungs, coughing and wheezing. Asthma is an unwanted visitor, who comes without warning, sometimes with near-fatal consequences.

This condition has doubled in the last 10 years, and the number is growing. About one in every five children is affected with asthma compared to one in every 10 adults. Chronic asthma patients have to be on permanent medication and can totally miss out not only on classes in school but also a normal, carefree childhood development.

Parents all over the world have embarked to look for cures for their children, vis-à-vis the medications the kids are taking. Among the most effective that the world is discovering is the Buteyko Breathing Method where patients of asthma (and other illnesses such as allergies, sleep and anxiety disorders, emphysema, stress, chronic fatigue symptoms) are taught exercises to correct or "recondition" their breathing patterns.

Jac Vidgen, an Australian-trained Buteyko practitioner, has seen them all in Sydney, Bali, Bangkok, Hong Kong and the Philippines. Everywhere he goes to teach the Buteyko method, asthmatics top the list of remedy-seekers. The Buteyko method was developed 40 years ago by Dr. Konstantin Buteyko, a Russian respiratory physician who discovered that the stresses of modern living have made people over breathe, which creates imbalance in oxygen/carbon dioxide levels. Several medical trials in Australia have already indicated that asthmatics can dramatically reduce symptoms and medication—safely and quickly—using the Buteyko method.

Even children as young as 4 years of age are able to master the technique and the first improvement mostly comes on the second or third day of practice.

To spread the good news about hope for asthmatic kids, Vidgen will be in Manila to give free introductory lectures and workshops on the method. Today the lectures and workshops will held at the Earthlite Center (4/F COD Dept. Store, Cubao) at 11 a.m.; Ateneo de Manila University Institute of Social Order—Gate 3 off Katipunan, 4 p.m.

Other schedules are Kinderhaus - 14 Bohol Ave., April 22, 4 p. m. Workshops (4 p.m for kids/parents or 6 p.m. for adults): Sanctuario de San Antonio, Makati: April 23, 24, 25, 29, May 4; Earthlite: April 26, 27, 28, May 3, 6; Ateneo: April 30, May 1, 2, 5, 10 Kinderhaus: May 7, 8, 9, 14, 16. Call up Sonia at 427-2172 or Palou at 929 9901 or Jac Vidgen at 0917-951-2527 or e-mail jacvid@attglobal.net.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Filipino scientist taps blood for breast cancer study

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

BEING spared from breast cancer will be as easy as, say, spitting in a test tube. In this case, it's just a matter of sharing 20 milliliters of your blood and sending it to a molecular biologist's lab to be examined and the genes it contains amplified.

The lab will come up with billions of copies of a single gene using primers or codes that will probe into the genes specific for breast cancer. The microbiologist then faxes to you the lab results so you will find out if you have a 30-, 80- or 100-percent chance of having breast cancer at a certain age. You will then have plenty of time to save yourself.

Sounds like science fiction but you can help make it possible even in a Third World setting.

Custer C. Deocaris, a young Filipino molecular biologist, will attempt to study the genes of Filipino families with hereditary breast cancer and the genes of breast cancer patients themselves. He will use a nuclear and molecular tool in predicting breast cancer.

But first he wants 20 ml of your blood. In return, he promises to give you full confidentiality.

Once the project is completed, breast cancer gene diagnosis in the Philippines can become as simple as a pregnancy test.

ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The project will help put up a database of the Filipino breast cancer genetic makeup and predict breast cancer long before it actually strikes.

Highest in Asia

Breast cancer is the perfect disease for study because the Philippines has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Asia. An estimated 10,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed each year and some 3,000 Filipinos die of it. (The mortality rate can be lower: one-third of all cancers can be cured if detected early.)

The country has no genetic database to speak of even as the world's developed regions are currently in the middle of the human genome project.

The Philippines, says Deocaris, can make use of its people's own genetic makeup to help it progress in science by supporting Filipino scientists doing projects like his. Otherwise, he warns, we have to make do with paying foreign laboratories to do a database of our own blood samples.

But not everybody can donate blood for the project.

Blood samples should come from donors who have at least one or more breast cancer cases within the family up to the second degree. These cancers should have occurred early—before the age of 40.

It will be better if the blood donors also have a family history of ovarian cancer.

Deocaris also wants blood samples from persons who have a family history of male breast cancers, or if the donors themselves have had breast cancer in both breasts.

With the help of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, Deocaris set up his own lab consisting of a facility for human tissue culture and for genetic mutation direction.

A cancer research fellow of the International Union Against Cancer in Geneva, Deocaris is currently the program leader and bench scientist of Gene Technologies for Improving Cancer Management, Early Detection and Prevention and Radiation Biology in Support of Cancer Therapy. He is a science research specialist at the Atomic Research Division of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute's Cancer Research and Radiation Biology Laboratory.

Female smokers face higher bladder cancer risk

WASHINGTON—Puffing on cigarettes increases the likelihood of bladder cancer for all smokers, but women who smoke face a much more acute risk than men do, said researchers at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine.

The researchers found that smokers face a risk of contracting bladder cancer two-and-a-half times higher than nonsmokers would. But when equivalent numbers of cigarettes are smoked, women had a much greater chance of developing bladder cancer than men.

Dr. Ronald Ross, chair of preventive medicine at the Keck School's Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, said the study provides the latest evidence of women's increased risk compared to men for some cancers caused by smoking. He pointed to the growing evidence that female smokers also incur a higher risk of lung cancer than male smokers do.

"It does drive home the point that women are not escaping any of this smoking-related disease risk and, if anything, they're getting pounded by it even more perhaps than men. And I think that's an important point for women to take away from this," Ross said in an interview.

The findings also are surprising because doctors generally consider bladder cancer a man's disease. Bladder cancer accounts for six percent of all new cancer cases in men and two percent of new cancer cases in women.

Regular smokers

The study, which appeared in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, involved 1,514 patients with bladder cancer and 1,514 control subjects who lived in the Los Angeles area. The researchers questioned all the participants about general smoking habits, how many cigarettes they smoked and how often, as well as the types of cigarettes they smoked and whether they inhaled deeply, moderately or lightly.

For both men and women, the risk of bladder cancer increased with the number of cigarettes smoked daily and with the number of years that the subjects smoked regularly, researchers said.

In nearly every category of smoking, the risks to women were greater than the risks to men.

Among very heavy smokers, the study found that women who smoked 40 or more cigarettes a day for 40 years or more faced more than twice the risk of contracting bladder cancer compared to men with the same smoking habits. These women incurred more than 11 times the risk of bladder cancer than a nonsmoker did, while men had approximately five times the risk than a nonsmoker.

Ross said doctors do not know exactly why smoking causes bladder cancer, but said it could be due to the presence in cigarette smoke of small amounts of a category of chemicals called arylamines.

The researchers analyzed blood samples from some of the study participants, looking for evidence of exposure to arylamines. They found that among men and women who smoked at the same level, concentrations of a certain indicator of exposure to arylamines were higher in women than in men.

Researchers found no difference in bladder cancer risk associated with filtered versus unfiltered cigarettes or low-tar versus high-tar cigarettes, nor was there any difference in the risk whether smokers inhaled deeply or shallowly.

The bladder is a hollow organ in the lower abdomen that stores urine after it passes from the two kidneys and before it is expelled from the body. About 90 percent of bladder cancers begin in the cells lining the bladder.

Heredity is not thought to be a factor in development of bladder cancer. *Reuters*

Filipino culture killing battle against cancer

ARE we losing the battle with cancer?

Anti-cancer advocates say that if you gauge it on the country's comprehensive information and education program, the situation is improving. But if you gauge it on the Filipinos' social perception in general—their indifference to cancer detection and prevention—it may be an uphill battle. The health reminders, they say, may be falling on deaf ears.

Filipinos are urged by the Department of Health to focus on preventable cancers—undergo a self-breast examination monthly or have a mammogram, an annual pap smear for cervical cancer detection, or a yearly test for prostate cancer for men.

The DOH also reminds Filipinos to avoid smoking to prevent lung cancer and to have a hepatitis B vaccination to prevent liver cancer.

But Philippine Cancer Society executive director Jesus Perez Cardenas lamented that Filipinos are generally unwilling to be tested for cancer.

"In other countries, they openly talk about cancer and how it is an accepted thing. Every year they take all the necessary procedures. They take the necessary precautions, (but) our people do not," he said.

"It's the (Filipino) culture. Take a more classic example—breast cancer. There is a simple self-exam technique. We bring female doctors and health workers to high schools and colleges. But when you check if they do self-exams regularly, they don't. And if they do and feel something wrong, they say it may naturally heal. How do you fight that? (Give them) more statistics until the dam breaks?"

He said this is one of the reasons the PCS keeps on going to girls' schools to plead with the students to pay attention.

"The breast self-exam is done a week after the monthly period. We give reminders, packages in sanitary napkins and even bathroom announcements. But nothing happens. Perhaps, it's the culture," he noted sadly.

Pap smears

PCS head for corporate services Sylvia C. Palma said that regular pap smears for cervical cancer could save lives. Cervical cancer, she said, takes about 30 years to develop.

"But only a few have a pap smear. They would rather spend P150 for a manicure than have their bodies checked for cancer," she said.

Prostate cancer and rectum cancer can also be detected early through a simple trans-rectal digital examination and a rectal exam.

"It's a very simple test, and it's only done yearly. But Filipino men do not subject themselves to a prostate test," said Cardenas.

Dr. Franklin Diza, DOH program director for the Philippine Cancer Program, said it takes years to modify a particular behavior.

"At least we already have activities that could modify behaviors such as smoking and sexual promiscuity and we will eventually see the trend of cancer cases going down," he said.

Cancer facts

About one-third of all cancers can be prevented.

The 1998 Philippine Cancer Facts and Estimates pegged cancer victims at 71,526—33,898 males and 37,628 females. Nearly 190 Filipinos out of every 100,000 now living will eventually have cancer. One out of five Filipinos who reach 74 years will get cancer.

The DOH is conducting an information and education awareness campaign stressing on primary prevention. People are asked to stay away from risk factors.

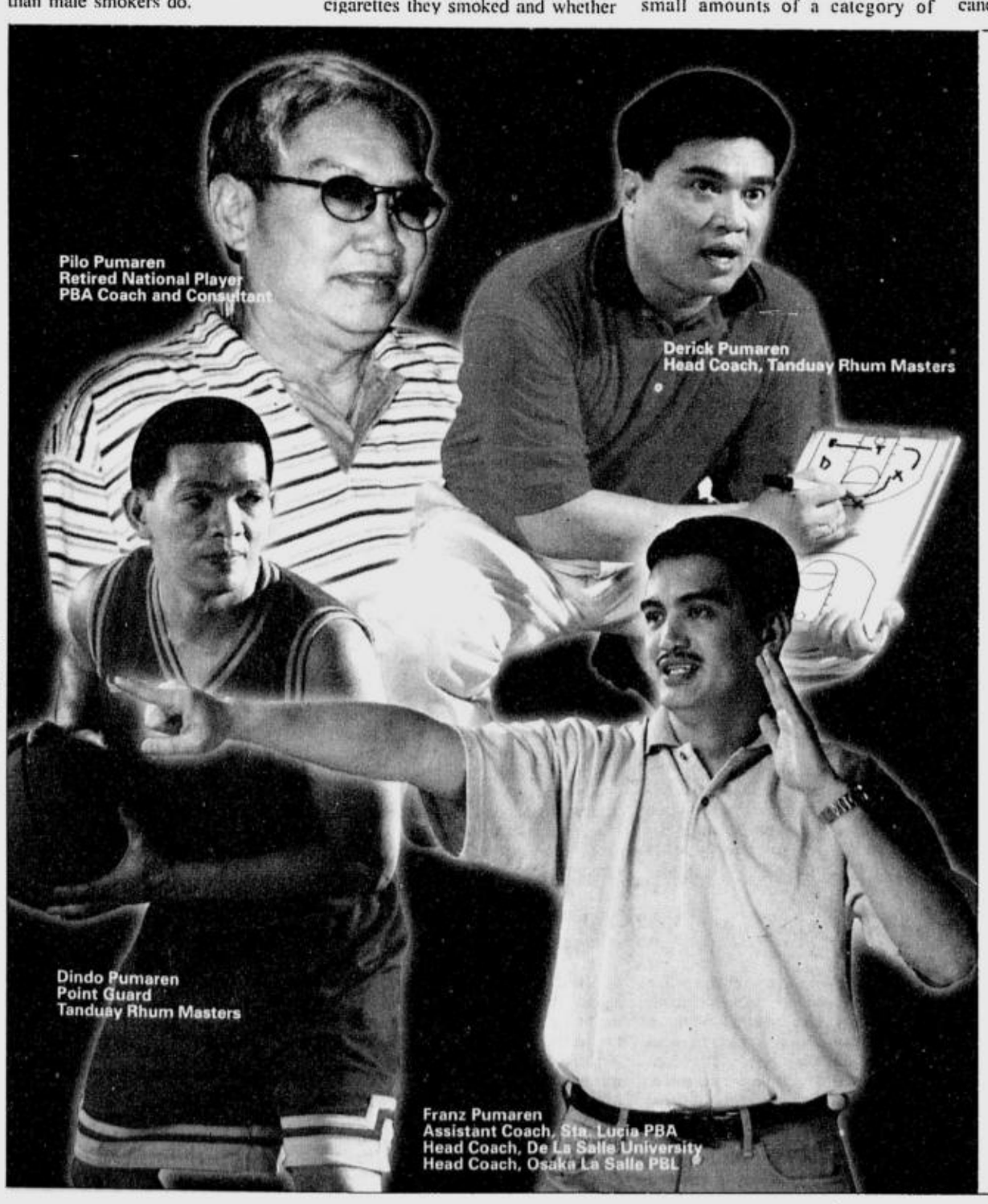
Secondary prevention, on the other hand, involves screening for possible cancers. The screening, diagnosis and treatment are the responsibilities of the hospitals and specialists, medical oncologists, surgical oncologists and Ob-gynecologists.

After treatment is hospice care. Patient care intensifies after all medical treatments—chemotherapy and surgery—have been exhausted. The objective is to give a better quality of life for the person in the final stages of the disease.

The PCS and the DOH say they are trying to work out the details on how the poor can have access to consultations and knowledgeable doctors at no cost.

In addition, the two agencies are working on providing the needed examinations and tests at facilities for free or at greatly reduced rates. The PCS plans to resell medicines—in controlled quantities—directly to patients at wholesale prices.

Tessa R. Salazar



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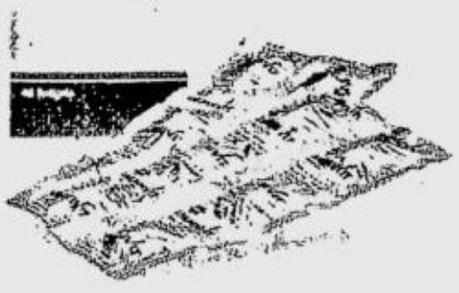

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1 whole honeydew lemon
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1 1/4 cups(approx. 200g) seedless grapes
2 tbsps. confectioners' sugar
1 170g can NESTLÉ CREAM, chilled
juice of 1 orange
thin strips of orange zest for garnish

Cut off about 2 inches of the melon's stem end. Discard seeds and scoop out the flesh into small balls. Place in a bowl. Add mango, kiwi and grapes to the melon balls. Refrigerate. Sift sugar on top and then sprinkle with orange juice. Spoon mixture into the melon boat. Pour chilled NESTLÉ CREAM on top of the fresh fruits. Garnish with orange zest. Serve immediately.
Cook's Note: Cantaloupe may be used instead of honeydew melon.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SaturdaySPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor ■ EDMUND SICAM, Associate Editor

TV epic hopes to take D-Day beach by storm

BY CRISPIAN BALMER

PARIS—Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks, inspired by their award-winning film "Saving Private Ryan," return to the D-Day beaches in June to unveil their latest World War Two epic—a multi-million dollar TV series.

Exploits

"Band of Brothers," a true-life tale tracing the dramatic exploits of a U.S. army unit as it fights its way across Europe, had a $120 million budget and is being billed as one of the most expensive television programs in history.

The series will receive its premiere in an auditorium seating 1,000 people to be built beside Normandy's Utah Beach, the scene of some of the fiercest D-Day fighting.

The screening is set for June 6, the 57th anniversary of the 1944 landings by allied forces on the heavily defended Channel beaches of German-occupied France.

"We decided that an extraordinary story and project like this demanded an extraordinary premiere," Richard Pepler, the executive vice-president at U.S. pay-tv network Home Box Office (HBO) which funded the 10-part extravaganza, said last week.

Eight directors

Filmed in Britain last year over eight intensive months, "Band of Brothers" features some 500 speaking parts, employed 10,000 extras and was put together by eight directors.

The 1998 picture "Saving Private Ryan" won Spielberg an Oscar as best director and Hanks an Oscar for best actor, and left the two Hollywood heavyweights hungry for more war drama.

They decided on adapting a best-selling book by Stephen Ambrose, which focuses on a small group of soldiers in the U.S. army's 101st Airborne Division.

The story follows the men of Easy Company through training and onto D-Day when they parachute into France behind Nazi German enemy lines. It climaxes with their daring capture in 1945 of Hitler's fortified mountain retreat, the Eagle's Nest.

Huge story

Realizing that such a huge story could not be told in one feature-length film, Spielberg and Hanks suggested it as a 10-part television serial and quickly got HBO on board.

In a change of role, Spielberg and Hanks executive produce "Band of Brothers," while Hanks also directs an episode—not an entirely happy experience by his own admission.

"I'm much happier being on the other side of the camera," he says.

Hanks' acting in the series is limited to a fleeting walk-on part.

Special effects

HBO spared no expense when it came to special effects. By the third episode of shooting, more pyrotechnics had been used than in the entire production of "Saving Private Ryan," while more than 300,000 lbs. of paper was used to create snow for a single forest set—a record, HBO says.

The production managed to save money by shunning stars.

With the exception of "Friends" favorite David Schwimmer, the cast consists of virtual unknowns, but HBO executives insist that this was an artistic rather than financial decision.

"It is important that people don't just see this as Hollywood. We want to make people understand that had they been born 75 years earlier it would have been them going off to fight," Anne Thomopoulos, who oversaw "Band of Brothers" for HBO, told a news conference in Paris.

The series will be broadcast in the United States from September 9 and will play on European television in the weeks and months that follow. *Reuters*

SPIELBERG and Hanks on location for "Saving Private Ryan."

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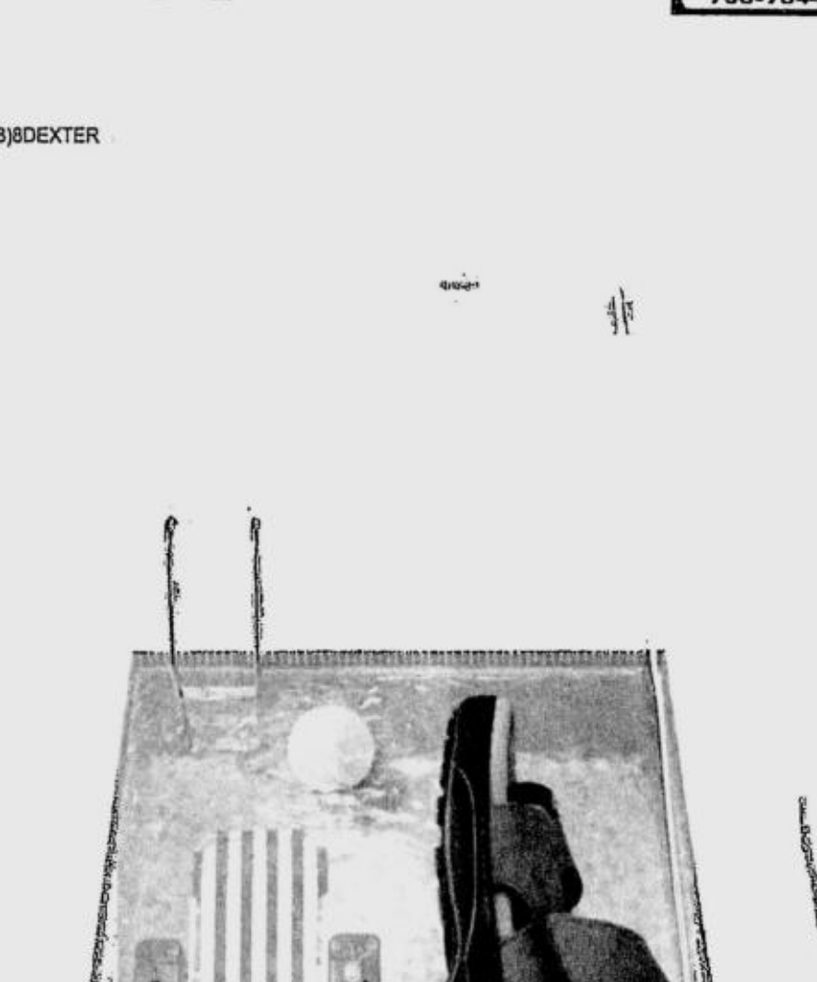

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Randy David and Katrina Legarda in new talk show

BY MONICA S. GUTIERREZ

ABS-CBN has a new talk show—with a twist. "Off The Record"is hosted by UP professor and former "Public Forum" host, Randy David, and crusading lawyer Katrina Legarda. It was ABS-CBN top executive Freddie Garcia who thought of the title.The hosts and Garcia did not like the original title, "Dos Por Dos." *"Mag-e-expect iyung mga tao na papakitaan mo ng dos por dos, baka wala pa kayong maimbita (sa* show)!" David laughs.

So what is the show about? *"Kung Tagalog siguro ang title ng show na ito,* it would be *'Ano Ba Talaga, Kuya?'* What's the Real Score?" shares David. "I think that late at night, people tend to be more relaxed about sharing their personal views about what really happened. It's really conversational.

Context

"When you say 'Off The Record,' you really want to say something in order to put an event or a comment in context. It's not for attribution or publication, but most of the time, he really wants it on the record, except that he might get into trouble. *Ayaw niyang mademanda siya*, but he knows that what he's going to say will complete the story."

Legarda reveals the twist to their show: "We will go macro-micro. Macro with Randy – *siyempre ako, chika*! We think a macro-micro approach might be fun."

Randy David envisions the show to be something like the column, Inside Malacañang in The Manila Chronicle, written by Celso Cabrera in the 1960s. *"Walang sumusulat ng ganyan ngayon!"*

The show will analyze important issues that became newsworthy during the past week. Then, the hosts will try and predict the outcome based on the news of that week. They want to tackle different aspects of society.

However, at present, politics is the main course. Later on, they intend to have more fun. "It's hard to be serious!" adds Legarda.

"The current times are very political, so you have no choice (but to feature political issues). Later on, we'll have a good time . . ," David promises us.

For their first episode this Sunday evening, they have lined up an interview with no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. "But if something breaks, we may not have her!" teases Legarda. *"Huwag mong sabihin iyan! Magtatampo sa iyo!"* Randy David jests back. The two hosts candidly comment on everything put before them. "She visited Jalosjos in prison! For me, it's personal!" says Legarda with eyes wide open in disbelief. "She shook the hand of Manero! That was totally poor judgment on the part of Jess Dureza. *Ano, nagulat siya?* She didn't expect it? As if she was meeting your friendly neighborhood barangay captain!" commented the professor.

Problem

Then they go back to the show..... "We want to find out what is going through her mind. The problem is how to make her feel relaxed, *kasi mahirap,* she's always on her guard ...."

So how do they plan to soften up the president? *"Ay* she likes him! *Baka may crush pa sa kanya*! You never know....10 sexiest men of the Philippines!" teases Legarda. David just chuckles and smiles. He doesn't know whether to be pleased or embarrassed.

ABS-CBN offered David the 6-8 a.m. slot on radio, to take the place of Noli de Castro. David turned it down because it would mean that he would be rendered useless the rest of the day, due to lack of sleep. Freddie Garcia was incredulous. *"Sabi niya*, everybody wants that slot! That decides the national agenda for the day! Do you know what the 6-8 a.m. rating of DZMM is? 18%!" shares Randy. " Just give me an afternoon show on radio," he countered. Katrina gives her two bits on the topic: "When you're not interested in public office, ratings are irrelevant to you."

We asked David: After years of solo hosting, what made him decide to have a co-host? Randy fell silent, deep in thought, then instinctively looked towards Katrina. "Don't look at me for the answer!" Katrina shot back at him.

Randy just smiled, then after a few seconds, revealed, "As a professor, I do all the talking. When I was a host, on TV, I was doing all the listening! I want to talk a little *naman*! Somebody has to keep track of the conversation. I also want to have an opinion this time."

"We can even have clashing opinions!" Katrina joins in, relishing the thought.

Independents

On that note, we asked the two if they share the same political views. They took a look at each other, then broke out in laughter. Randy then declared, "I don't think so!" They are both not voting 13-0. "I'm not going to vote for anybody in the Puwersa ng Masa. I will consider some of the independents."declared Randy.

Someone asked who they voted for as president in '98. Silence. Then all of a sudden, Katrina attacked teasingly, "Erap *ka*! That's right! I fought you! I begged you!" Randy could not do anything but smile sheepishly and admit to the crime. "I voted for Fred Lim," Katrina declared proudly. "Spray-painter..." Randy continued teasing her. Katrina shot back, "So is...(she mentioned the name of a presidential candidate then)." Everyone's eyes widened in disbelief. She just smiled knowingly, confident that she had won this round over David.

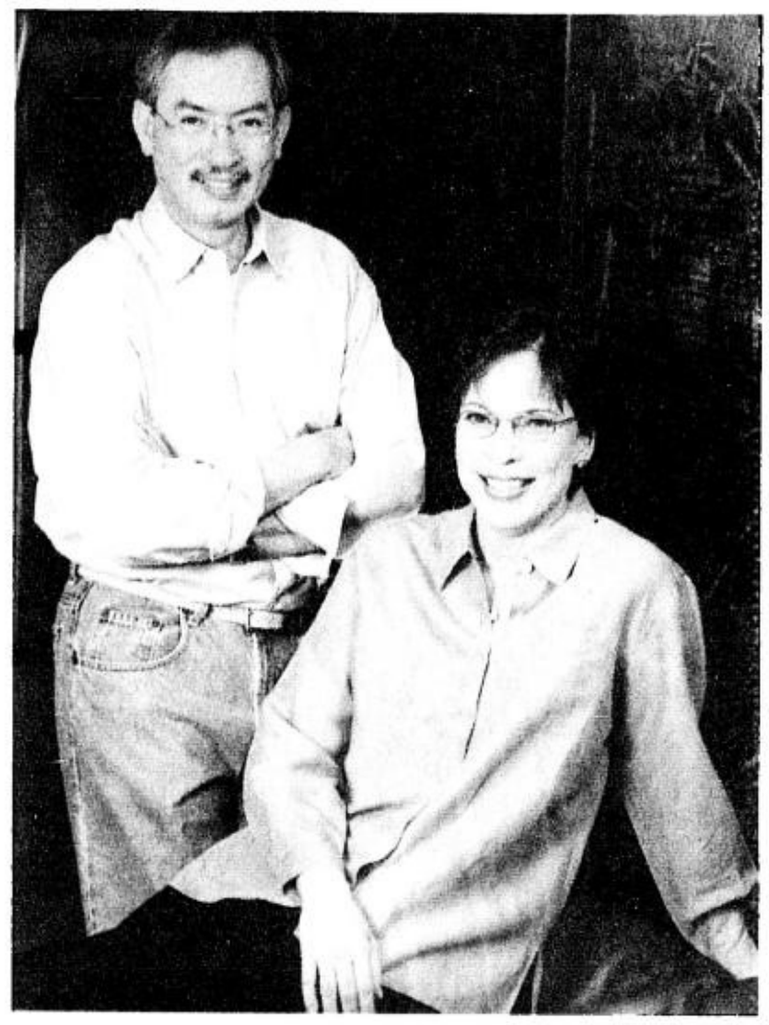
Over the "Live Show" issue, Katrina dismissed it. "There are greater things in life to worry about than whether or not a movie should be shown." Randy David, on the other hand, analyzed the situation from different perspectives, giving us a sneak-peek into their macro-micro approach. "I think it was mishandled by both sides. You have Nic Tiongson and the liberals, they have that whole arena now, *sayang, nandyan ka na*, on the other hand, what does it serve GMA to alienate the artists?"

They harped endlessly on every topic, including which party list to vote for. Randy is voting for Akbayan, Katrina for Abanse Pinay. "Weren't you president of Abanse Pinay?" badgered Randy. "Wasn't Karina (David) the secretary of Abanse Pinay?" Legarda kidded back.

There was a lull in the crossfire and Katrina suddenly asked, "Is there anything we agree on *kaya*, Randy?" After a few seconds of introspection, they came up with a list of issues on which they share common ground.

Abortion : "Under certain circumstances, like when the mother's life is in danger, and if the mother was raped." Family planning. Divorce. "I'm for the death penalty — except for incest cases." Legarda explained that when the victim knows that

RANDY/p.C3



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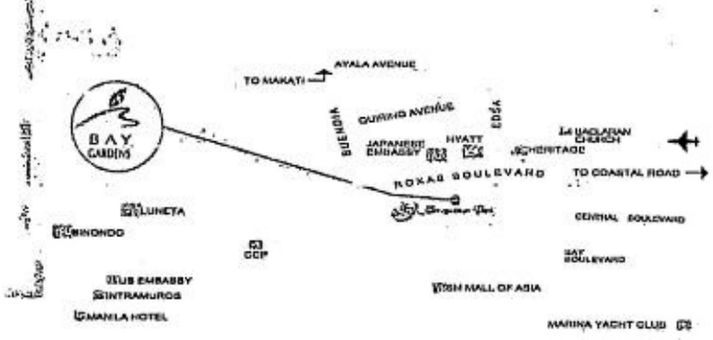

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For Announcement Purposes Only

Louie Ignacio focuses on TV work

BY JOCELYN VALLE

LOUIE Ignacio, who shares directorial credits with Soxy Topacio on GMA 7's soap opera, "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin," has always wanted to become a filmmaker. But when the 32-year-old mass communications graduate was recently tapped to direct his first movie, he said no.

"I've decided to focus on TV," says the former ad megman and current favorite music video visionary of pop stars like Regine Velasquez, Jaya and Janno Gibbs. He got into TV work when writer Agnes Caballa introduced him to GMA-7's executive Wilma Galvante a few years ago.

Drama programs

Good decision. Louie first made waves on the tube as director of Channel 7's Sunday noontime show, "SOP" when it was reformatted three years ago. He's been at the helm of several episodes of some drama programs since, and last year he helped make the one-season-only miniseries "Umulan Man o Umaraw" and "Munting Angel" successful.

This prompted GMA-7's management to counter the competition with another soap opera. (With the anime mania on the early evening primetime slot over, mothers and maids have reclaimed ownership of the remote control.)

Louie is thankful for his network's support and faith. He compensates with loyalty (by resisting juicy offers from other companies) and with his commitment to lure back fans of drama to the station that gave them the long-running "Anna Lisa."

With "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin's" powerhouse cast and new treatment on the otherwise trite tale of lost siblings, *Direk* Louie is positive that the production will be able to realize its goal. He is specially proud of the way they delve into Clarissa's situation.

Teenager

Sunshine Dizon plays one of the main characters (the other is Angelika de la Cruz) who grew up in a bar where her adoptive mother (Janice Jurado) worked. Now a teenager, Clarissa still depends on the bar to support her parent, who's been handicapped, but she's also earnest in changing her destiny by studying.

"*Kitang-kita dito ang* transformation *ni* Sunshine, from a typical student to somebody who works in a bar. Interesting *din ang mga* bar scenes," *Direk* Louie enthuses, hastening to add though that Angelika's character is equally challenging. "*Parehong mabigat ang* roles *nila. Nakatrabaho ko na sila pareho* before, and I enjoy working with them," he says.

A Noranian, Louie only wishes his actresses could cry like the superstar, and he could be like the directors he looks up to – Lino Brocka and Marilou Diaz-Abaya.

Discipline

Direk Louie concedes his inferiority to the two esteemed filmmakers but he likes the way he is able to integrate the discipline he's learned from the varied fields he's involved in. He sometimes acts out the scenes for his actors and is very patient. He's doesn't scream and keeps the energy level of the cast and crew always at its best.

There is briskness in his scenes and breeziness on the set. Angelika and Sunshine attest to this. "Triple M *talaga si Direk*," Angelika grins. "*Magaling, masaya at saka masarap ka-trabaho.*"

Sunshine nods, "The first time I worked with *Direk* was in his first *telesine*. He doesn't really get mad. And we're like a big family here on 'Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin.'"

Mainstay Carmi Martin (she makes life hell for her house help, Katherine, Angelika's character) is likewise impressed with the new director. "*Wala siyang ere. Mabilis siyang magtrabaho at saka bilib ako sa mga* shots *niya*," she gushes.

Looks like Louie won't have many headaches handling movie actors when he finally fulfills his dream.

Randy . . . (From page C2)

her father, uncle, or grandfather might get the death penalty because of her testimony, she suddenly stops testifying, and the incest doesn't stop. David is totally against the death penalty.

"*Ano pa...?*" and again another lull as they think some more. "Erap." Someone suggested.

"*Ikaw*, you voted for Erap, *ako*, I did not!" Katrina egged Randy again. But they both agreed that Erap should go to jail. Someone asked if they would guest Miriam Santiago on their show. "That's a thought!" said David, relishing the idea. We might invite her, three weeks from now. Along with Akbayan!" Legarda protested, "*Ayoko! Baka manalo pa ang Akbayan!*" Randy David then conceded, "*Sige, Abanse Pinay na rin!*"

Friends

There is great rapport between these two hosts. One wondered whether this rapport was achieved overnight. "We've been friends for a long time," shared Legarda. "When I first met him, I was 12 years old. My family was at Oxford and they were at Manchester." Legarda impishly revealed that David was 22 at that time, and they broke out in laughter.

After England, they didn't see each other for a long time. Until 1998, when Legarda ran for senator and David invited her to his show, "Public Forum." When he saw her, he exclaimed, "*Ang laki mo na*! Are you the girl.....?" David could not resist taking another potshot at Legarda: "*Sabi ko*, I didn't think you were a lawyer, I thought you were studying to be a nurse....." Legarda pounced on him, "No! I was going to be a nun!"

But their families have known each other for a long time. Legarda is the perfect co-host for David because "She's the only one my wife trusts!" Legarda shared, "I am the *ninang* of his grandchild, and Karina (Randy's wife) is the *ninang* of my daughter"

David observed that on other talk shows, they didn't get to discuss the issues deeply. "They're shouting matches. Entertainment *ba. Sayang. Walang* one-on-one. Not too many people will watch the one-on-one." David declared that he would love to do a show like "Dong Puno Live". "*Ang patok na patok ngayon, mga sigawan.* We used to do that, (on "Public Forum"), *pero di naman batuhan.*"

Legarda added, "We don't want a debate, we really want to know what you think. We want your opinion." They further promised, "We will argue with our guests. We will argue with one another." Legarda shared, "We're more interested in helping people understand the issues. Rather than keeping them oppressed all this time." Spoken like a true lawyer and champion of people's rights.

"Off The Record" promises to be an exciting show. "Fearless and peerless" as ABS-CBN puts it. As far as wit and sharpness of minds are concerned, the show is overflowing with them. Whether they are able to keep viewers up that late on a Sunday night remains to be seen. Hopefully, they will be able to get enough viewers to keep the show going. (Premiere episode, April 22, 2001 at 11:30 p.m.).

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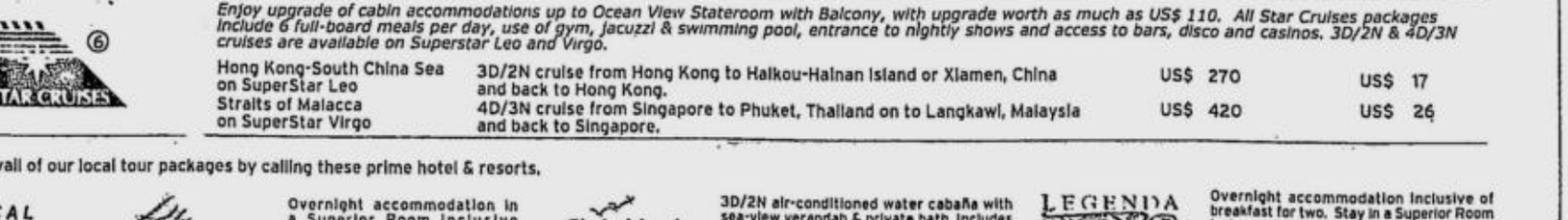

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Joyce Jimenez explains why she left Viva

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

JOYCE Jimenez is a sight to behold with her unwanted pounds out of the way and she isn't even wearing a two-piece bathing suit. Joyce shows up at the presscon for her latest starrer, with Aga Muhlach, "Star Cinema's "Narinig Mo Na Ba Ang L8est?" in a simple outfit that shows off her whistle-bait figure.

Unwanted fat

Everyone wants to know how she lost the unwanted fat, especially around her tummy. Was it a crash diet that did it for her, or a miracle pill?

None of the above. When she was trying very hard to lose weight by going on a diet, she would lose two or three pounds and gain them back in no time. "There was a time when I'd diet, diet, diet, and nothing would work," says Joyce.

So she stopped trying, and the weight loss just happened naturally! "I started eating healthy. I stayed away from fast foods, oily food, pork, *ganyan*. But I still eat a lot of rice and pasta. I eat regularly. No breakfast but a full lunch and dinner. Instead of snacking on *chichiria*, I eat a lot of fruits."

Unfortunately, the excess fat will still be visible in her latest film because it was shot last year, but viewers who watch her sitcom have noticed the difference.

The bad news for Joyce's fans who enjoyed her sexual calisthenics in "Warat" and "Balahibong Pusa" is that the sexy star shows very little skin in her new motion picture. She has a kissing scene with Aga but it's not as torrid as the ones she had with Jomari Yllana and Jay Manalo.

Ironically, the director of the movie is Joey Reyes, who megged the much-talked-about "Live Show." It must be stressed here that Joey is very much at home in the comedy genre, having megged and written several hit comedies and TV sitcoms, and he hopes that "Narinig" gets as much buzz as "Live Show."

The good news is that moviegoers will finally be able to hear the real voice of the US-bred actress. It took her 30 hours to dub her scenes since she had difficulty with Tagalog words with too many syllables and the "*ng*" sound, but she finished the job with the help of two vocal coaches.

JIMENEZ. Took 30 hours to dub her scenes for her movie with Aga Muhlach.

Free agent

Another first for Joyce is that "Narinig" is being produced outside of Viva Films, which used to be her home studio. Now, Joyce is a free agent with no commitment to any movie producer for a long-term contract. When asked why she left Viva, Joyce says she leaves all business negotiations to her manager, Shirley Kwan. "That's between Shirley and Boss Vic (del Rosario). I've never asked them for the details," she hedges.

Ultimately, however, Joyce has the final say. So why did she leave Viva? "Yes, in the end, it had to be my decision. But I trust my manager. She's taken me this far, so why should I question her decisions about my career?"

When pressed further, she says it was a career move and "*hindi magkasundo sa* terms of the contract." Was it the money, then? "It wasn't the money," she insists. "There were a lot of terms they couldn't agree on."

Joyce acknowledges that she owes a debt of gratitude to Viva. "My heart will always be with Viva, but I have to move on. I have to grow up and develop. But I'm not saying that I won't work with Viva again. For now, I'm expanding my horizons.

"Viva did all that it could do for me and I'm very grateful for that. They were the ones who built me up, but I want to try new things."

Right now, the "new things" are an exclusive TV contract with ABS-CBN (she has a sitcom "Da Body En Da Guard," where her co-star is also Aga Muhlach), an international film titled "Lords of Creation," and "Narinig."

In the movie, she plays a sexy junior copywriter who everybody thinks is a brainless bimbo while Aga is an account executive who is mistaken for a gay person. A lot of the gossip is circulated via the cell phone.

Cell phones

Our discussion with Joyce turns to cell phones and we discover that although she can very well afford to buy the more expensive models, she chose the moderately priced Nokia 3310. "The top of the line is so small," she explains. "It's hard to use. Besides, if I break it *manghihinayang lang ako. Sobrang mahal*, P30,000, so, when you break it, that's P30,000 down the drain. I'd rather buy an inexpensive model, it's still the same thing."

She's no text addict but she admits that when she's shooting a movie and she's doing nothing between takes, she tends to send a lot of messages. On the average, she sends 30 messages a day.

In the movie, Joyce plays a liberated woman, so we ask her if she's the same in real life. She says yes but not liberated to the point of being sexually promiscuous. She considers herself a normal girl who has conservative ideas about sex.

Asked her if she's the type who prefers marriage to a live-in relationship, she says, "It's something I would like to do, although I don't want to be a hypocrite because I lived in with someone before. But marriage is what I'd like to aspire for."

On the subject of multiple sex partners, she's quite emphatic. Her voice is shaking when she says no. "I value myself too much. I respect my body. I wouldn't make myself *baboy*."

On one-night stands, she says, "I don't do that. There has to be something between the two of us. It's not like 'you're there, let's have sex.' There has to be some feeling!"

Connie Chua teaches acting to children

BY ANDY BAIS

MOST of our performers are products of acting workshops. Theater, TV and film actress Connie Chua joined a PETA–sponsored workshop in 1978 and that has opened doors for her career as one of our more reliable actresses.

Armed with more than two decades of acting and teaching experience, she put up the Actors 26 Talent Center four years ago. Since then, the Center has been conducting acting workshops for children with ages ranging from six to 12.

The Center is at her apartment in Quezon City which has a big sala that's perfect for conducting workshops.

Talent coordinator

Why concentrate on children? Connie's experience as talent coordinator of the ABS-CBN Foundation for almost three years has given her the chance to see for herself that there are a lot of talented children waiting to be trained and nurtured as actors.

"*Ang kailangan lang nila, dapat i*-polish *ang kanilang mga angking talino sa pag-arte* and to instill in them the basic discipline, such as coming on time for rehearsals or tapings, being humble and creative," she says.

Connie's stint with the Foundation also made her realize that acting should not be a monopoly of the well-heeled class. "*Maraming mga nag*-audition *na mga bata na mga anak ng labandera o mga* ordinary employees *na* just as talented and good-looking.

"It is sad to note *na naudlot ang kanilang* growth as potential theater or TV actors *dahil sa wala silang perang pambayad sa mga* audition requirements, like pictures, transportation expenses and food.

"That's why, in my workshop, I have children *na hindi ko na pinabayad dahil sayang ang kanilang* talents *kung hindi ma*-develop," she reveals.

Two modules

For her workshop, Connie has two modules: stage and camera acting. "For stage, I put more emphasis on the children's personality development, specially their determination and conviction. *Na kaya nila ang kanilang ginagawa at kung papaano mailabas ang kanilang tiwala* that they can act.

"For camera acting, I just teach them the basics and add what I've learned as a talent for TV and film."

How does her workshop differ from the other acting classes? "I teach each participant myself and I make it a point to involve the children's parents.

Analysis

"I also give them a detailed analysis of their children's performance. *At siyempre*, I also ask them about by my teaching style. *Okey naman daw*," she chuckles.

She admits that she is a strict teacher. "*Di ko bibitawan ang bata hangga't di niya makukuha ang gusto ko*. However, *di ako pwedeng 'feeling* superior' *sa kanila. Dapat* 'feeling *bata' din akong tulad nila.*

"For example, *kung sisigaw sila*, I also do the same, but I have to tell them when it's time to stop, and then we go back to work.

"*Pinag-aralan ko rin sila* one by one *na di nila alam. Kaya kailangan* psychologist *ka rin*," she shares.

CHUA. Excellent actress and committed teacher.

Proud

Connie is proud of her outstanding graduates, who have landed important roles on TV and in films after attending her workshop.

Bryan Homicillo has appeared in a number of films and even earned a nomination for Best Child Actor in the last Star Awards for his role in "Lagarista."

Lorena Garcia was a mainstay of "Oki-Doki Doc" and is also in "Okatokat."

Hannah Camille Bustillos is a mainstay of "Annakarenina" and plays one of Lorna Tolentino's children in VIVA Films' "Abakada…Ina."

Connie started her summer workshop last April 16 and it will run for 12 sessions. Each session lasts for three hours every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Unlike other workshops, which are usually conducted once a year, hers is a year-round activity,with only a two-week gap between the last round to the next.

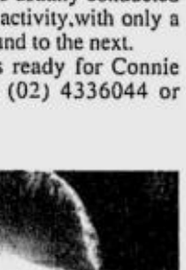
If you feel that your child is ready for Connie Chua's acting workshop, call (02) 4336044 or 09198370257.

GARCIA, HOMICILLO AND BUSTILLOS. Three of Connie's outstanding young graduates.

Life beyond death

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismarck



THE body cannot exist eternally. It is changing every moment due to the actions and reactions of different cells as dictated by Mother Nature. This has been studied extensively by modern medical science. Thus do growth and aging take place.

Fear

The time comes when the body begins to wither like a plant and eventually dies. It is the loneliest time because there is the reality of losing everything. This is the reason why death causes the greatest fear. Everyone eventually is subdued by time.

Plastic surgeons, spa owners, geriatric specialists and scientific researchers advertise themselves as givers of youth and strength. They raise people's hope that the solution is close at hand—and yet no one can conquer time.

It is therefore crazy to believe that the purpose of life is to be able to live forever in this world. Everything and everyone will die!

We can only stay on this planet for a certain number of years—but the spirit is eternal. We are part and parcel of the Supreme Being, not equal in quantity but in quality.

Perfection

We must work toward the perfection of our eternal existence. Everything we say and do, everything we earn and use must be geared toward the perfection of the eternal spirit soul. Our body is just a vehicle for that purpose.

The focus of our love and attachment should not be the world and the people in the world, but the Supreme Lord. In that way, we leave our bodies with the excitement of finally going home—with the confidence of a child who knows that His father is awaiting him with open arms and unconditional love.

Focusing on the Supreme Being is not possible for the impure soul who has not pursued spiritual life. If you want to achieve success at the end of your lifetime, remembering the Supreme Lord is essential.

It is natural for us to want to enjoy and be happy, but we should understand that loneliness cannot be cured by relating to worldly objects and personalities. We can only start to really love others if we recognize, love and serve our Supreme Father. A loving relationship with our Father will bring us closer to our brothers. Then we will experience the peacefulness and joy of true brotherhood and service to other living entities.

There should be no difference between spiritual and material activities if one lives a spiritual life. If we listen, read and chant about the Supreme Lord, then our purified consciousness can engage in the practical activities of this world. We can perform our duties as spouse, parent, etc. as a loving offering at the feet of our Supreme Master.

STAR PROFILE

Robin Williams goes from one success to another

BY NOELANI TORRE

ROBIN Williams is 48 years old. He has 30 movies under his belt, as well as two Emmys, one Golden Globe, and one Oscar. Williams is on a roll, and he shows no signs of stopping.

Entertainment Weekly's "Funniest Man Alive" was born in Chicago, Illinois to a Ford Motors executive and a former model on July 21, 1952. He grew up in an affluent suburb in Detroit with only his dog, toys, and a healthy imagination for company.

Wrestling

Smaller that the other kids and chubby to boot, he was often bullied in school. At age 10, however, he got involved in wrestling and other sports which made him more outgoing and less vulnerable to bashing at the same time.

From Detroit, the Williams family moved to northern California in 1968 when father Robert retired. Robin finished his last year of high school in California and was voted "most humorous boy in school" *and* "least likely to succeed"!

His talent was apparent then but his classmates seemed skeptical about the fame and money that humor could bring. Millions of laughing viewers (and dollars) later, Robin would prove them wrong.

After high school, Robin went on to Claremont McKenna College to study Political Science with the intent to join the Foreign Service after graduation. (Robin Williams the ambassador!)

What a loss it would have been for the viewing public and the Hollywood money-makers if he had pursued that course. Luckily, Robin got bitten by the acting bug, and politics was forgotten when he transferred to Marin Junior College for its theater program.

Improvisational comedy

He didn't stop there: he also did improvisational comedy after school hours.

Robin had hardly settled in in Marin

WILLIAMS. Dated and later married his son's former nanny.

before he was packing his bags again—to New York, where Juilliard had offered him a scholarship in their new drama school. He had problems with adjusting and was never really comfortable, but he managed to befriend Christopher Reeve, also an acting student, and professor/actor John Houseman. As in Marin, he spent his free time in productive ways. Robin performed and told jokes outside the Metropolitan Museum of Art to earn extra money.

After two years, he dropped out and returned to San Francisco, where he began performing as a stand-up comic. Then he met cocktail waitress Valerie Velardi and they set up house in Los Angeles. He married her in 1978.

It was during this time that Robin began making his first brief forays into movie and television. He had roles in a TV revival of "Laugh-In" and in "The Richard Pryor Show," both of which didn't last very long. In 1977, he did several skits for the sex-farce movie "Can I Do It . . . Till I Need Glasses?"

Star status

Unfortunately, his scenes were cut out in the final editing. Later, however, when he had already achieved star status, they were put back in. No doubt, fame does indeed fix a lot of things!

Robin made the acquaintance of the bitch goddess when he played the "innocent, wisecracking extraterrestrial" called Mork on the TV sitcom "Happy Days," which led to his own popular spinoff, "Mork and Mindy" in 1978. These roles readied him for a film career and indeed, two years later, in 1980, his first feature film "Popeye" was released.

However, the movie was not a success and garnered him nothing but negative reviews. His next film, "The World According to Garp," was better received but still did not show off his talents in the best light.

Meanwhile, Robin's personal life was becoming more and more troubled. He and his wife had escalating problems and he was also using cocaine and other drugs.

In 1982 his friend John Belushi died because of drugs. In 1983 Robin's son Zachary was born. These two incidents helped him put things in perspective and he managed to rid himself of his self-destructive addiction.

He made "dialect-heavy" "Moscow on the Hudson" in 1984 and busied himself with such forgettables as "The Best of Times" with Kurt Russell and "Club Paradise," both in '86.

Homeless

Robin then began co-hosting, with fellow comics Billy Crystal and Whoopi Goldberg, the first of a series of shows benefiting the homeless, "Comic Relief." He soon separated from his wife and began dating his son's former nanny and erstwhile assistant, Marsha Garces.

All these changes shook him up considerably and he entered therapy. His career however, was up for a boost.

In 1987 he won his first Emmy for his appearance on a Carol Burnett TV special. Then his biggest break came ever,

ROBIN/ pC6

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AM/FM

Even on radio, there's no business like show business

BY RITO P. ASILO

TELEVISION may seem more directly interactive because it's a visual medium, but radio has a wider reach. Radio hosts are required to talk more because there is no beautiful set or pleasant face to ogle at. The listener feels the issues are addressed to him, and the relationship seems more personal.

Close ties

No wonder Noli de Castro, Joe Taruc, Joe D'Mango, Mel Tiangco, Inday Badiday, and even Tita Swarding, have close ties with their respective listeners. These names may have a bigger audience but it's doubly interesting to listen to powerful men host their own public service programs because their positions of power help people to skip red tape. You get more immediate results.

We tuned in recently to Armed Forces Radio, DWDD's "Isumbong Mo Kay Gen. Maganto" (M-F, 6-7 p.m., 1134 khz), to find out if a person's rank or title really hastens the settlement of disputes. They looked into various cases like a military veteran's long-delayed insurance claim, a billing problem with SkyCable, opposing politicians' complaints over removal of posters and abusive tow trucks and wreckers.

But more than its public service slant, the listener gets snippets of information about the decorated general's life. In an hour, you learn that it was during Gen. Maganto's stint with the MMDA that the present color-coding traffic scheme was adopted; you get warnings against the '*Akyat-Bahay*' and '*Salisi*' gangs and hear a politician-friend crying over his competitor's mud-slinging tactics. You also find out that generals who have found celebrity in their crime-busting careers do fend for each other.

Text message

A text message from Panfilo Lacson interrupted Maganto's discussion with his co-anchor, Gina Vivar-Doria, to wish the latter's program well. Later, Maganto endorsed Alfredo Lim's candidacy in the tight mayoralty race in Manila.

Where one finds fame, or notoriety, can show business be far behind? These military men have had their lives turned to box-office attractions on the big screen. Lim has three movies to his name, one of them top-billed by Fernando Poe Jr.

Similarly, Lacson was portrayed by Rudy Fernandez in last December's Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "The Ping Lacson Story," which Lacson himself described as "only 35 percent accurate" in his website.

Maganto has had two movies made about his exploits, namely "Target: Maganto," which starred Ronnie

TIONGCO. Close ties with her listeners.

Ricketts, and "Leon ng Maynila," with Bong Revilla. Maganto revealed that he's cooking up a contest whose prizes include cash, a shirt and videos of his filmbio. We haven't really seen either film so let's hope they were well-made for the sake of the future winner.

AM Radio may not be the medium for perfect grammar but it presents a more in-your-face type of entertainment. If you listen closely, you will hear interesting quotes like "Barangay officials are only popular with politicians during elections" or, from Gen. Maganto himself, "*Pag nakatulong ka, nakakaluwag sa kalooban at nakakabawas sa mga nagawa mong kasalanan.*" Perfect words for Holy Week!

Mush heaven

If you are not the AM type of person, and prefer to drown yourself in the mush heaven of the FM band, we've found the perfect place for you. In last week's observance of Lent, we tuned in to Mellow Touch 94.7 for three hours and got a heavy serving of soothing songs, some bad, some brilliant, to last us a lifetime. And, except for the occasional station ID blurb and some perfunctory Holy Week reminders after every four songs, it was commercial-free!

What got our attention was the catchy intro to Dianne Reeve's jazzed-up version of "My Funny Valentine," with an unconventional vocal arrangement of the love song that was recently recorded by Louie Reyes using the same arrangement in The New Minstrels' reunion album.

The experience proved to be pleasant listening mainly because the songs were played non-stop, no smart-alecky DJ to introduce a song or singer he knows absolutely nothing about.

If you are content to simply listen, not caring about the title of a song and its singer, this is the station for you — just a potpourri of songs from the '70s to the present, simply a trek down memory lane.

It featured duets like Olivia Newton-John and David Foster's "The Best of Me," Joe Pizzulo and Leza Miller's Sergio Mendes hit, "Never Gonna Let You Go," Babyface and Mariah Carey's "Everytime I Close my Eyes," Peaches and Herb's "Reunited," and the schmaltzy "If I Ever Fall in Love Again" by Kenny Rogers and Anne Murray, as well as movie theme songs like Coco Lee's "Before I Fall in Love," (from the Julia Roberts-Richard Gere flick, "Runaway Bride"), James Ingram's "Where Did my Heart Go?" (from "City Slickers") or Jordan Hill's "Remember Me This Way" (from "Casper").

We were surprised to hear former heartthrob Leif Garrett's 1979 hit, "I Was Looking for Someone to Love." Fine song, bad singing. It was also good to hear from John Farnham's soaring vocals in "The Reason Why."

A pleasant treat was had when they played one of Martin Nievera's earliest Tagalog recordings, "Ikaw ang Lahat sa Akin." It's eerie to listen to this guy who hardly speaks a word of Tagalog sing local songs with so much power and pathos. Remember "Giliw," "Hanggang Kailan," or the recent remake of the Vernie Varga original, "Kahit Isang Saglit"?

Another Tagalog song prominently played on the program was "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?" the Freestyle/ Pops Frenandez duet and, two hours later, the Ogie Alcasid original.

But despite the wonderful vocal arrangement the duet version had (it was recorded live), its rawness may have done it in because some portions were obviously sung flat. You can't "cure" live recording!

Ode to unrequited love

But it was not this song that made us squirm. It was Lionel Ritchie's ode to unrequited love, "Hello." We never quite recovered from this song's overdose in the '80s.

Good things they included songs like Kenny Rankin's "Pussywillows Cattails," Gwen Gutthrie's "You Touched My Life," Janet Jackson's "Let's Wait Awhile" and Randy Goodrum's wistful "Doors."

Interestingly enough, there was only one religious song played throughout our three-hour marathon with Mellow Touch, Jamie Rivera's "Heal Our Land." But it was the lyrics to the Isley Brothers' "Highways of My Life" that made quite an impression, with insightful turns of phrases like "Only the other side of the road can take me back home."

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Boy Abunda's 'Private Conversations' marks first anniversary

ABUNDA. Time management is the key.

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

THE FIRST time we heard that Boy Abunda was going to host an interview program, we wondered whether he could do a good job considering he was doing a hundred other things – a show biz talk show, a radio show, talent management, publicity work, writing a twice-weekly newspaper column.

Well, here it is, more than a year later and the interview show "Private Conversations" is still very much on the air (Thursdays, 9 p.m., ABS-CBN News Channel) and continues to feature important personalities like President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile and Congressman Joker Arroyo. Knowing how ABS-CBN is very conscious about ratings, Boy's show must be doing well since the network hasn't taken it off the air yet.

We had a chance to ask Boy about his multi-faceted career at a recent presscon marking the show's first anniversary. The venue was Thai In A Box along Tomas Morato ave, where the food is quite good, but it is the worst place to hold an interview because of the noise level. And yet Boy managed to get through to us with his forceful voice and observations that made sense.

On whether he was spreading himself too thin with his hectic sked, he said, "*Hindi naman.* Let me cite Walt Whitman and his "Soul of Myself." All of us are multifunctional. We are made up of great multitudes, regardless of how sometimes we constantly hold these personalities within us."

Boy said he knew his load. He has a staff that helps him with his job as a talent manager and publicist. "I'm not as involved as I was 10 years," he reasoned out. "Doing 'The Buzz' is a breeze.

"It's a matter of time management. I'm able to do a lot of things because I'm not a father, I am not a mother, nor do I take care of a mother. What I'm trying to say is that I'm able to do all these things because I am not many things."

Boy added that he has also learned to say no when his hands are full. Despite his heavy load, he keeps his Mondays free to be able to relax from his grueling schedule.

When he was primarily a talent manager and publicist, Boy worked behind the scenes for many, many years. Now, however, he is very visible on camera and is heard on radio. Is that part of his frustration as an actor? Is he "*kulang sa pansin*"?

"I admit I'm a frustrated actor...and dancer — a bad one at that. I even played myself in a Robin Padilla-Vina Morales starrer, but nobody seemed to notice. I didn't plan this, things just fell into place. I don't believe in accidents. I think divine intervention had something to do with it.

"*Madaldal ako. Wala akong takot.* I know I'm not Miss Universe but I've never been shy. Since I can't do movies and I can't model or join beauty contests, TV hosting seemed to be more *bagay* to me."

Doing "Private Conversations" is part of his plan to reinvent himself. He gathered enough courage to ask management to give him a serious interview show. He realized most of the network execs did not think he could do a serious show since he was identified with show biz (translation: trivial) stuff.

Luckily for him, other managers like David Celdran and Charo Santos-Cocnio had enough faith in him and that faith seems to have been well-founded.

HALLE Berry as Dorothy Dandridge.

Dandridge biopic on HBO tonight

Young viewers will probably not be familiar with Dorothy Dandridge. In the 1940s, when the silver screen was ruled by such beauties as Marilyn Monroe and Ava Gardner, this black actress became the first African-American star to win an Oscar nomination for Best Actress for her performance in "Carmen Jones," the movie version of the Verdi opera. She also became the first colored woman to appear in Life Magazine.

This was an era in which racial discrimination was very strong in the United States and Dorothy suffered such humiliation as getting only a bathroom cup to pee in when she performed in a nightclub. At one point, a hotel drained a swimming pool because she had "dared" put her foot in the water!

Today at 9 p.m., HBO presents her tragic story in the made-for-TV movie "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge" with Halle Berry in the title role. Halle won a Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Miniseries/ Motion Picture Made for Television. The movie also won five Emmy awards.

We watched a preview of the movie and agree with the critics who heaped praises on Halle's performance. There is always the temptation for an actress to sentimentalize a role because of the tragic circumstances surrounding Dorothy's career and personal life. The movie presented her life as objectively as possible and didn't linger on events that could have made the movie a melodrama. Dorothy had a child who was born brain damaged. Her second husband was a con artist, who was both mentally and physically abusive. He drove her to alcoholism, bankruptcy and addiction to sleeping pills.

The movie managed to present the story in a restrained manner and in the process made Dorothy's story more gut-wrenching.

Halle, who is also the movie's executive producer, has this to say about Dorothy: "I think what initially inspired me was the fact that Dorothy had been so forgotten and that her contribution was so great and meaningful – not only to me, but to an entire community of people...Dorothy gave me the greatest gift. She gave the opportunity, after 10 years of struggling in this business, to be a leading lady."

'G-Mik' reformats

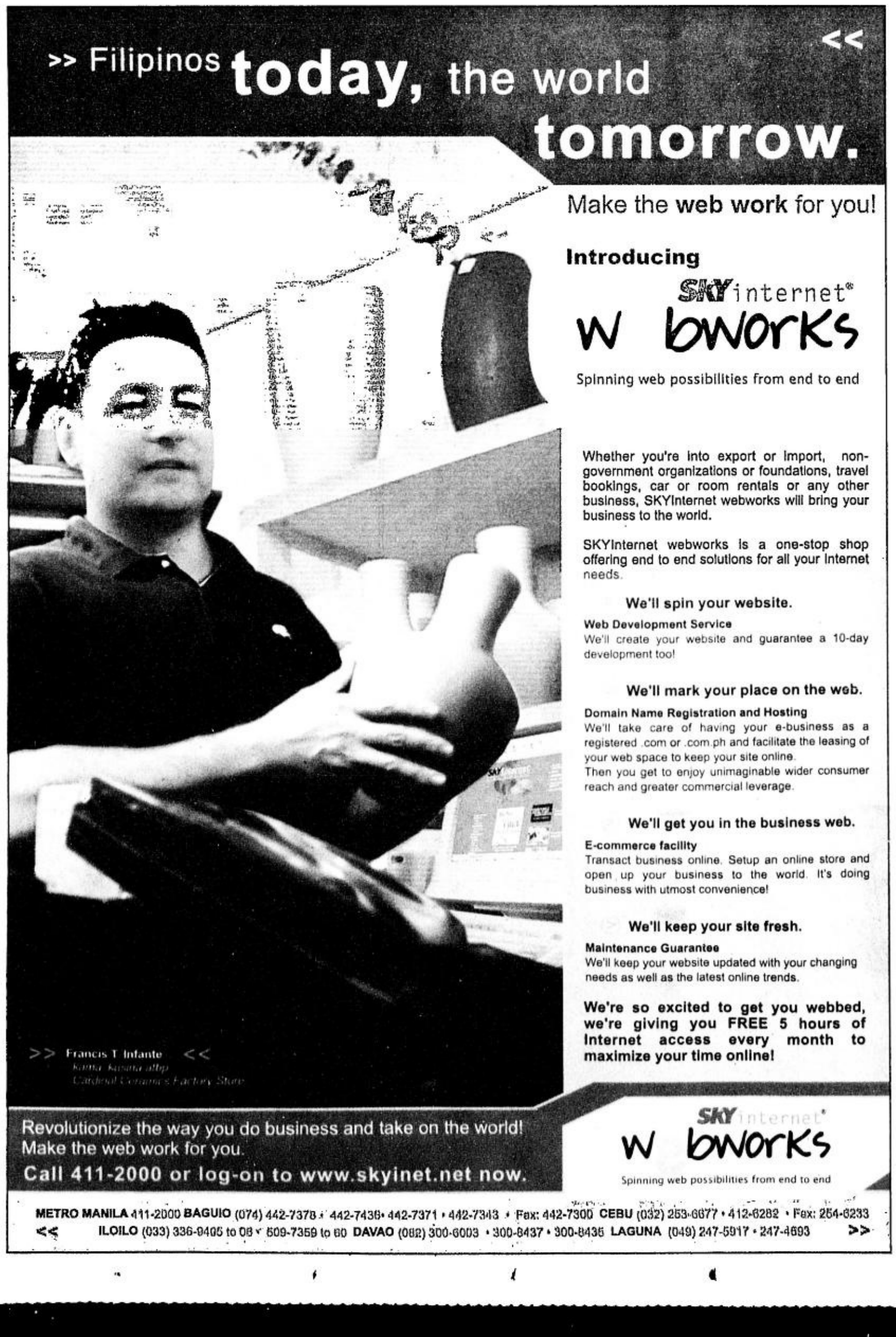
ABS-CBN's youth oriented "G-Mik" which airs Saturdays at 4 p.m. sports a new look starting today with a more character-driven story and more realistic situations that affect today's teeners.

Camille Prats plays Roni, the strong-willed leader of the group who seems to have everything she wants but is actually unhappy. Her-musically inclined brother, Yuan, played by real-life brother John Prats, is now more lenient with her when it comes to suitors but he has problems relating to girls.

Angelica Panganiban is Jelay, the first one in the *barkada* to have a boyfriend but her romance with Jun-Jun (Carlo Aquino) gets complicated. Jun-Jun works to provide additional income for his financially-strapped family.

Borj (Stefano Mori) no longer courts Roni and gets involved in sports activities. The new face in the group is Basti (Danilo Barrios) who goes after Roni this time.

Other members of the cast are Miko Samson, Janus del Prado and Heart Evangelista. The newcomers in the show are Angelene Aguilar and Abigail Cruz, members of Star Circle Batch 9.



Robin Williams . . . (from page C5)

when he portrayed the iconoclastic disk jockey Adrian Cronauer in the film "Good Morning, Vietnam."

The movie was a hit and Robin's "uncanny improvisational skills" won him a Golden Globe and a Best Actor Oscar nomination. His next most notable film, "Dead Poets Society," "allowed him to further extend his dramatic range, imbuing his guileless expressionism with a search for larger meaning." The movie earned him another Oscar nomination.

His personal life also improved with his marriage to Garces and the subsequent birth of their daughter Zelda. It seemed that there was nowhere else for Robin Williams to go but up.

Theater

His performance in "ABC Presents a Royal Gala" earned him another Emmy and he turned his sights on theater. In 1988 he performed with Steve Martin and Bill Irwin in a controversial production of "Waiting for Godot" at the Lincoln Center. The play was lambasted by critics and the playwright himself for the actors' improvisational departures from the script. Yet despite that, audiences still lined up to watch and the show sold very well.

He next starred in "Awakenings" as an Oliver Sacks-type doctor, and his role in 1991's "The Fisher King" got him another Oscar nomination. In the same year, he played the grown-up Peter Pan in Steve Spielberg's "Hook" which got him another set of negative reviews but a gratifyingly big box-office turnout.

His next film, Disney's animated feature "Aladdin," fared better with the critics and earned him big bucks commercially as well.

His life took a slightly illicit turn, how-

ROBIN/ pC7

Ramon Bayron gets good TV-film scripting breaks

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

(Conclusion)

THE LOCAL film to watch this week is "Abakada...Ina," Ramon Bayron's big scripting break in the movies (he co-wrote the film with the more established Shaira Salvador).

Concept

Ramon recalls that he firmed up the concept for the film when he read some UNICEF solicitation letters to families, and one of them mentioned an illiterate woman.

Earlier, he had already thought of writing a script about the problem of illiteracy. One of his favorite movies is "Stanley and Iris," a 1990 film directed by Martin Ritt where Robert De Niro plays a loner whose big secret is the fact that he can't read.

The UNICEF letter galvanized Ramon's desire to dramatize the problems of illiterate people in today's world. The topic was generally deemed "uncommercial," but happily for Ramon, his timing was good: "Anak" had done well at the tills, and Viva Films was looking for similarly significant dramatic material to film.

Vincent del Rosario green-lighted the project, and Shaira co-wrote the final version of the script with Ramon. Things looked even better for the project when Eddie Garcia chose it for his comeback bid as film director, and Lorna Tolentino agreed to deglamorize herself to play the movie's woebegone protagonist.

Good notices

The movie is currently getting good notices, so Ramon's film-scripting career can be expected to be on the upswing. It couldn't happen to a more deserving talent, since Ramon is not only a gifted, committed writer, but has a good work ethic as well.

He's also eager to keep learning. He was already a proficient writer when he joined the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines' annual screenwriting workshop a couple of years ago, because he wanted to graduate from TV to movie screenwriting.

From the rigorous workshop, he says he learned how to be more scientific in dealing with the script, and he was challenged to expand his scripting interest to more than drama.

BAYRON. Co-writer of "Abakada... Ina," Eddie Garcia's comeback bid as film director.

Now that Ramon has proven himself to be a good scriptwriter for the movies, he's been tapped to write a film that will co-star Judy Ann Santos and Angelu de Leon—an interesting casting concept, you'll agree.

After his four years in TV and movie screenwriting, what can Ramon share with relatively less experienced writers in terms of the lessons he's learned along the way?

Attitude

"The situation can sometimes be double-edged," Ramon observes. "It pays to have an attitude—and yet again, it doesn't. Having an attitude means you know what you want to do, and believe in what you're writing.

"If it leads you to excel, attitude is good. On the other hand, if it creates enemies for you, it's counterproductive." Take your cue from that, young writers.

Finally, Ramon wishes to thank the ABS-CBN people and other industry folks who gave him a helping hand early in his career. He wouldn't have survived without their help and encouragement, he says.

Producers and directors who want to contact Ramon can e-mail him at rrey_1914@yahoo.com.

Robin Williams . . . (from page C6)

ever, when an ex-girlfriend sued him for "allegedly infecting her with herpes." Not to be defeated, Robin filed a counterclaim for attempted extortion. The scandal eventually died down after they settled. As a kind of consolation, his second child with Marsha was born; a boy, Cody.

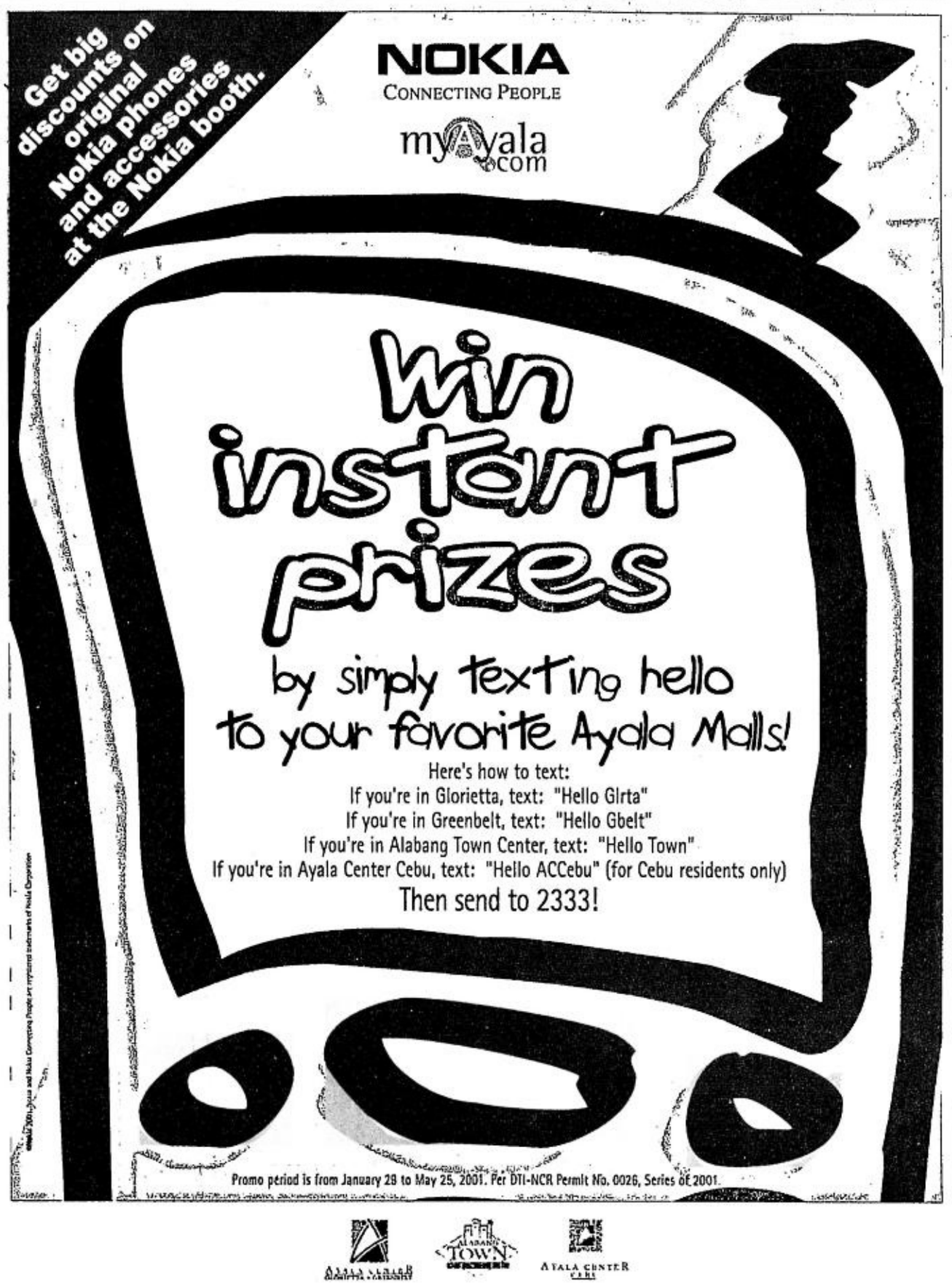
Production company

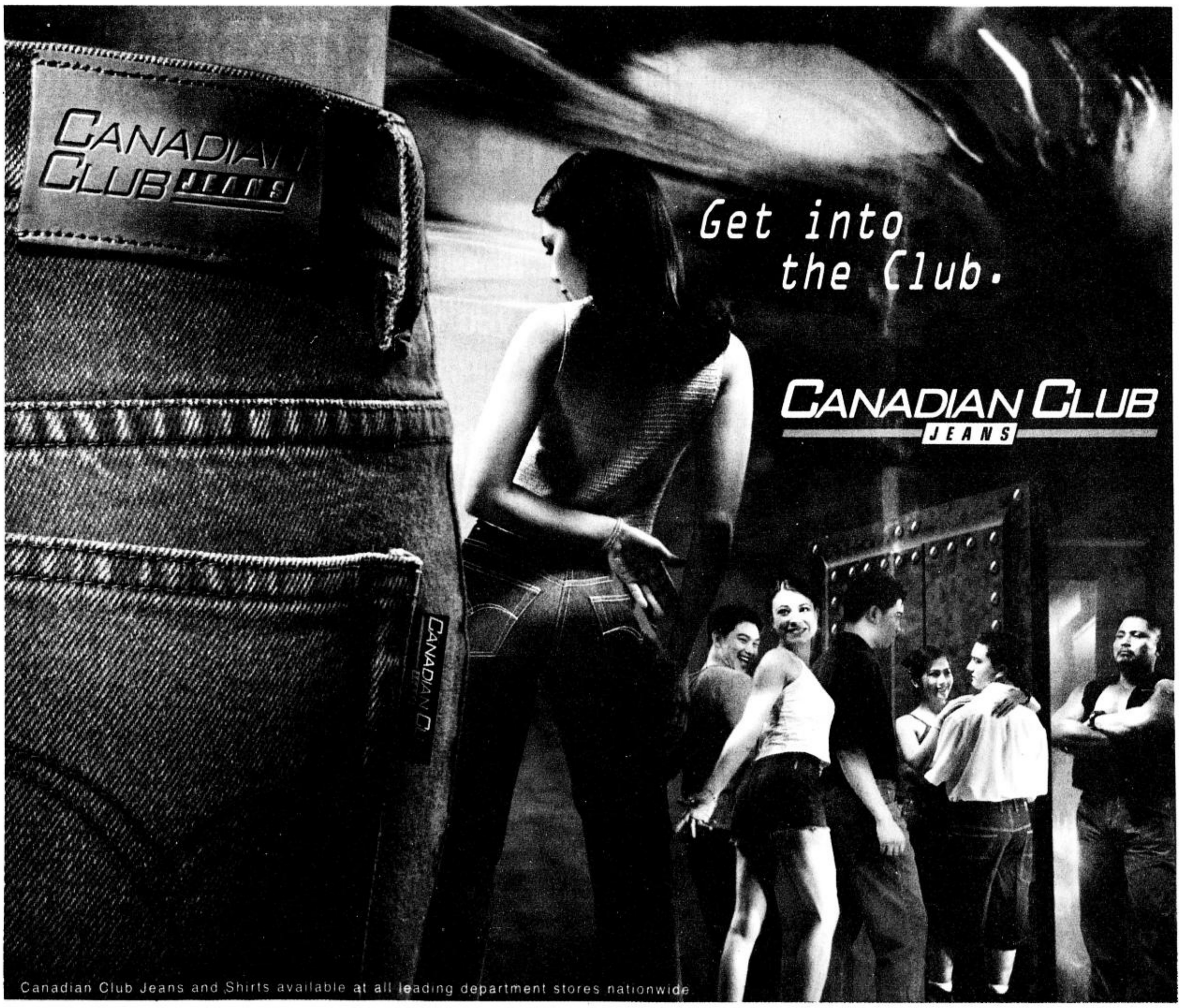
He and his wife set up a production company in the early '90s with an auspicious beginning in Robin's biggest grossing film, "Mrs. Doubtfire." The '90s was in fact his most successful decade. After the hit "Mrs. Doubtfire," he made "Jumanji" in 1995, "The Birdcage" in 1996, and "Flubber" and "Good Will Hunting" in 1997.

The last one earned him the Best Supporting Oscar. He also starred in films that weren't quite as successful in 1999, "Jakob the Liar" and "Bicentennial Man."

Described as a "whimsical and highly charged performer," Robin Williams uses his gifts not only on screen. After Christopher Reeve's riding accident, Robin disguised himself as a Russian doctor and appeared in Reeve's hospital room. "I laughed. And I knew for the first time I was going to be all right," Reeve later said.

We look forward to more from Robin Williams, the star who can make us laugh and cry at the same time.





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Sa... SPECIAL

JUDY Ann (left) has outdistanced the competition but Jolina is not far behind.

Room at the top for Judy Ann, Jolina and Claudine

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

DESPITE the proliferation of sexy movies on the local film scene, quite a number of young stars are still able to make it big.

"Wholesome" may sound boring, but it's still what the youth and family audiences go for, as proven by the continuing popularity of the three top young actresses in the land—Judy Ann Santos, Claudine Barretto and Jolina Magdangal.

Popular appeal

What do they have in common that accounts for their popular appeal? And, how are they different?

Their relatively decent and fresh projection enables them to connect with the huge "General Patronage" audience, unlike screen sirens Klaudia Koronel and Rica Peralejo, whose daring and baring performances pretty much limit them to the adult crowd.

Within this shared wholesome image, however, the three leading young actresses differ in some major ways. Claudine is the best-looking young star, and concentrates on topbilling TV soap operas, making only about one movie every one or two years.

Versatile

Jolina is the kooky comedienne, and also the most versatile performer among the three, acting, singing and dancing with verve and zest. She has a TV sitcom and makes quite a lot of movies.

For her part, Judy Ann handles both dramatic and comedy roles with aplomb, has a weekly anthology show on the tube, and goes from one movie to another, co-starring with the top actors in the industry.

At first sight, Judy Ann doesn't look like she's got what it takes to rise to "young superstar" status, but her chubby looks can be deceptive. There's something about her that appeals to the same *masa* crowd that made a superstar out of dark, little Nora Aunor.

Accessible

Perhaps it's Judy Ann's less than perfect projection that makes her accessible to the mass show biz audience? Maybe she's loved because, like Nora, she's her family's breadwinner, and everybody dotes on young stars who work hard to give their loved ones a better life?

Whatever the reason, Judy Ann has outdistanced the competition and is clearly the young female star to beat these days. Which is not to say that Jolina has resigned herself to eating her dust.

The gamin cut-up has made a name for herself as a livewire performer, young fashion icon, and headliner of many shows for Filipinos abroad.

It's Claudine who has been left behind, because her handlers have made her specialize in TV soaps for the most part.

Huge audience

Granted, soap operas on television have a huge audience, but on the local show biz scene, variety and versatility are prized.

To catch up with Judy Ann and Jolina, Claudine should make more movies, and maybe also give comedy and musical performance a try.

Of course, young stars can't do *everything* if they don't have the aptitude for it. For instance, Judy Ann has come up with a hit album simply

ROOM/ p.D2

BARRETTO. Should make more movies to catch up with Judy Ann and Jolina.

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Fun and frolic at Charlene's shower

BY RICKY T. GALLARDO

SOON-to-be Mrs. Aga Muhlach, Charlene Gonzales was a picture of a happy bride-in-waiting as the first of her many bridal showers kicked off at the posh residence of her *'tita'* Gina de Venecia in Dasmariñas Village last Easter Monday.

CLOSE friends from school, work and play attend the first of many showers for the bride-in-waiting.

Courtesy call

The affair came after immediate family members of both Aga and Charlene paid a courtesy call on the couple's *ninang*-to-be, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in Malacañang.

Hosted by Ms Azucena 'Nene' Vera-Perez, grand matriarch of the Vera-Perez clan, the exclusive affair saw Charlene's closest friends from school, work and play and the members of her family come together for the happy tradition of sending the bride-to-be off to her new life.

AGA and Charlene play an answer-matching game.

One by one, Charlene's guests arrived with gifts and happy wishes.

The huge receiving room was transformed into an instant party place adorned with big, pink balloons and easter flowers. Mrs. Vera Perez personally made sure that everything—from food to drinks to prizes for the parlor games—ensured a truly memorable event for her "beauty queen *apo*," Charlene's step-dad Pepito being *Tita* Nene's son.

Charlene's mom, Elvie Gonzales, wasn't able to make it because she was down with the flu, but she sent her best carrot cake filled with nuts and topped with icing to make up for her absence.

Filipino food

Traditional Filipino food overflowed and we had our gastronomic cravings satisfied with the best *pancit luglog* we've tasted in years, the wonderful *tokwa't baboy*, super crunchy *chicharon*, fried *lumpia* dipped in chili-vinegar, and home-made *puto* as soft as cotton balls.

The games perked up the guests, with wonderful cash prizes at stake. Liezl Sumilang-Martinez gave up P10,000 for a stuffed toy in the "*Pera o Bayong*" game, much to the disappointment of her *dalagita* daughter Allyana. Aga's mom, Anita Aquino, and sister Arlene gamely coached the contestants in the How-Well-Do-You-Know-Aga? game.

One of Charlene's classmates in pre-med romped away with P7,000 when she bested everyone in the tequila drinking contest.

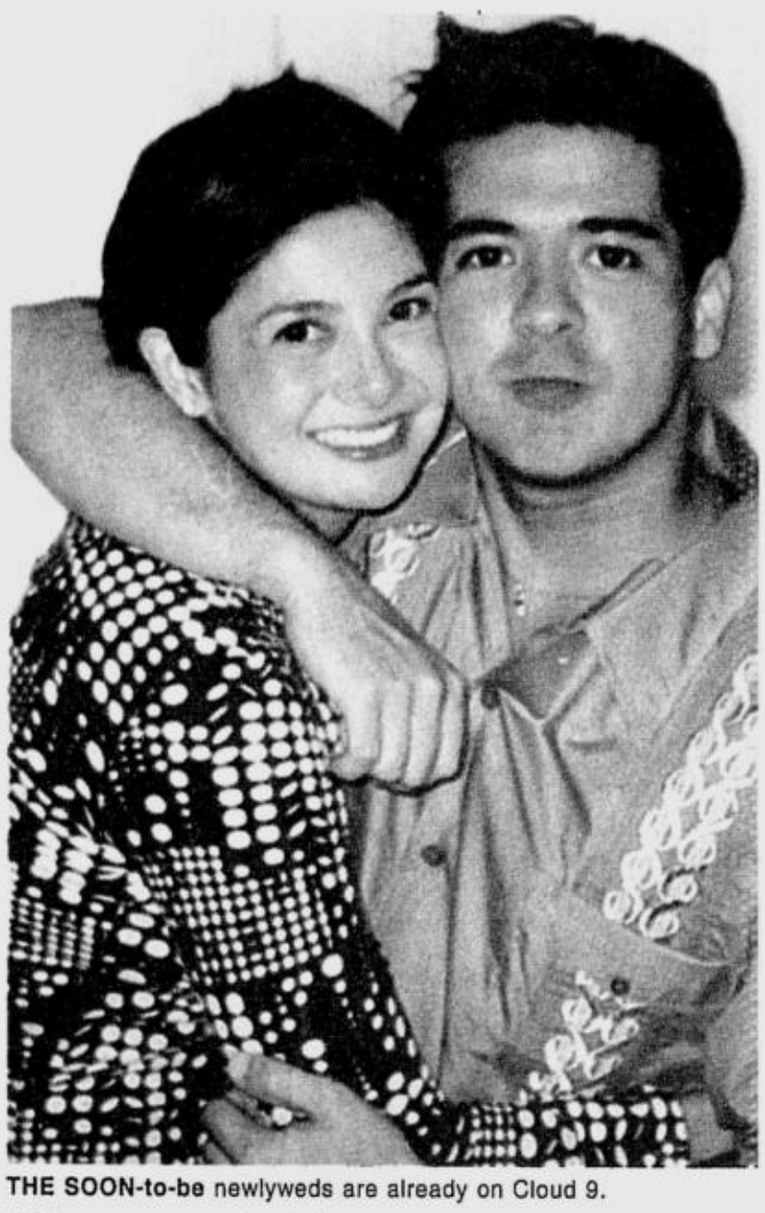
Charlene's VIP gang in her weekly dancing show also showed up in full force, minus choreographer Maribeth Bichara. Aside from Liezl, only a few friends from show business were invited, among them Aga's well-loved manager Ethel Ramos, Dolor Guevara, Salve Asis, Ian Fariñas, Nadia Montenegro and Kuh Ledesma.

Relief

There were only four male "guests" at the bridal shower—Aga, Geoff Simpson, Kerwin Cuevas and this writer, and it was a relief that we were not made to do our version of the Full Monty since no male exotic dancer was hired!

Because the party was wholesome, Aga and Charlene were instead made to play a game that looked like an instant press conference, where the couple were made to match their answers to questions from the guests, and in case they didn't match, they were made to smooch each other's face with red lipstick.

From the looks of it, the couple are already on Cloud 9 as their wedding day nears. So that work won't get in the way of this once-in-a-lifetime event, Charlene is taping advance episodes of her weekly TV show and Aga is wrapping up promotions for his movie "Narining Mo Na Ba Ang L8est" with Joyce Jimenez. The nuptials will be held in Baguio on May 28 and, this early, it is being touted as the year's wedding to watch. We wish the couple showers of blessings of health, happiness and a home-sweet-home!



THE SOON-to-be newlyweds are already on Cloud 9.

Room at the top . . .

(From page D1)

because she's popular, but she can't really sing, so she shouldn't pursue *that* avenue in her career.

To her credit, however, Judy Ann has been working on her acting, and she's gotten to the point where she can play both dramatic and comedic roles with believability, empathy and savvy.

The ace up Jolina's sleeve is her flair for comedy, and she's gotten so good at it that she's established herself as today's leading exponent of the kooky, motormouth kind of comedy first popularized by Nida Blanca, who next handed her "title" down to Maricel Soriano.

Having the likes of Nida and Maricel in her show biz "family tree" is a big advantage for Jolina. But she's achieved some sort of plateau of popularity, so, if she wants to surprise viewers again and further energize her career, Jolina should tackle a dramatic role or two.

Both Nida and Maricel did that in the course of *their* stellar careers, and they won awards that enhanced their reputation as gifted performers in a big way.

Summing up: Judy Ann is currently pacing the competition, but Jolina could narrow down the gap between them by occasionally going dramatic, while Claudine has to really hustle hard and make more movies, if she doesn't want to be left far behind.

Your Skin and the Elements

Play beach volleyball or tag on it. Make castles out of it. Take a romantic stroll with your partner on it.

On a summer day, the sands of the seashore offer a lot of fun. But whatever your idea of fun on the sand is, there's one opportunity you should always take. Walk barefoot on it. It's one of the very rare times you can lose those shoes and let your feet walk, run and play bare as nature would have it.

Walk barefoot on the SAND.

Most of us don't realize it but wearing shoes have deformed our feet. The frequent rubbing between our feet and the shoes also dries up the skin among other things. According to podiatrists, when we walk barefoot, the feet's movements are natural and our posture, improved.

But get your skin covered.

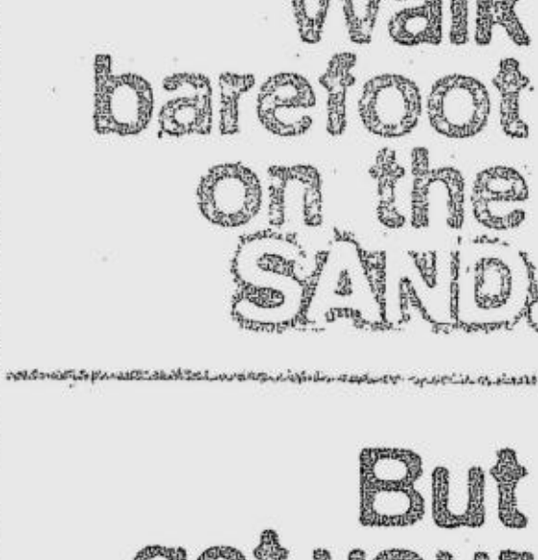
However, baring your feet doesn't mean you should strip your skin of protection, too. The basic rules for skin protection this summer still applies.

Schedule your barefoot trek before 10 am and after 3 pm. The sand is cooler at these times. The UV rays from the sun are less intense, too.

Apply sunblock on exposed skin. That includes an oft-neglected part - the skin under the chin. This is very important as the sand reflects UV rays upward, intensifying it.

Freshen up after your frolic. It's best to use Johnson's pH 5.5 because it's formulated to maintain the skin's moisture. The facial wash and 2-in-1 body wash clean without drying up the skin. After bath, you may top up moisture with pH 5.5 body lotion.

Keep drinking water handy. You'll need it to replenish the water you sweat out – from all that walking!



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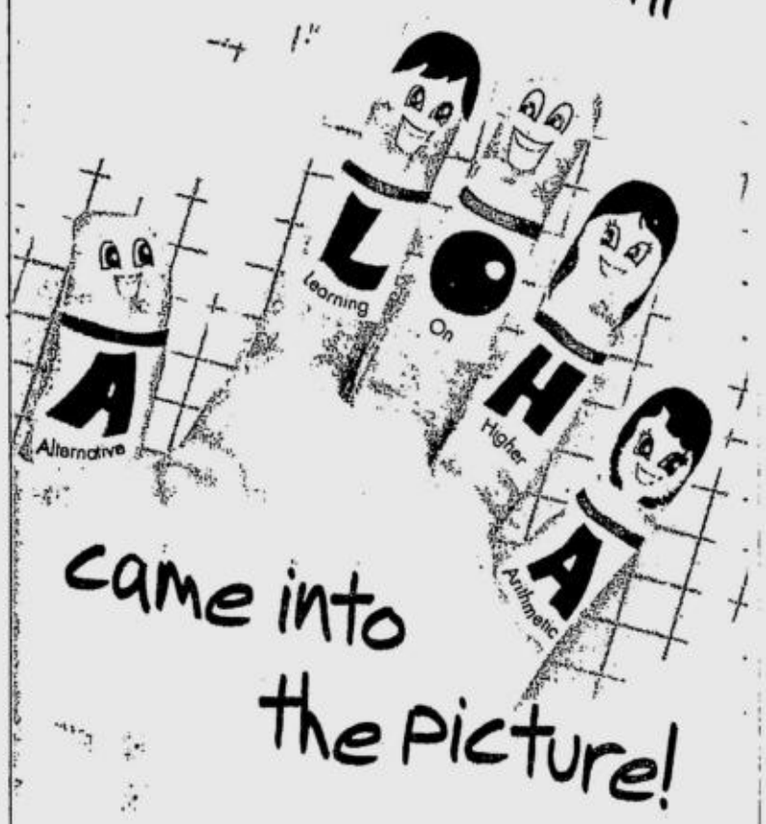

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- Mico Cariño - 10 years old, Grade V

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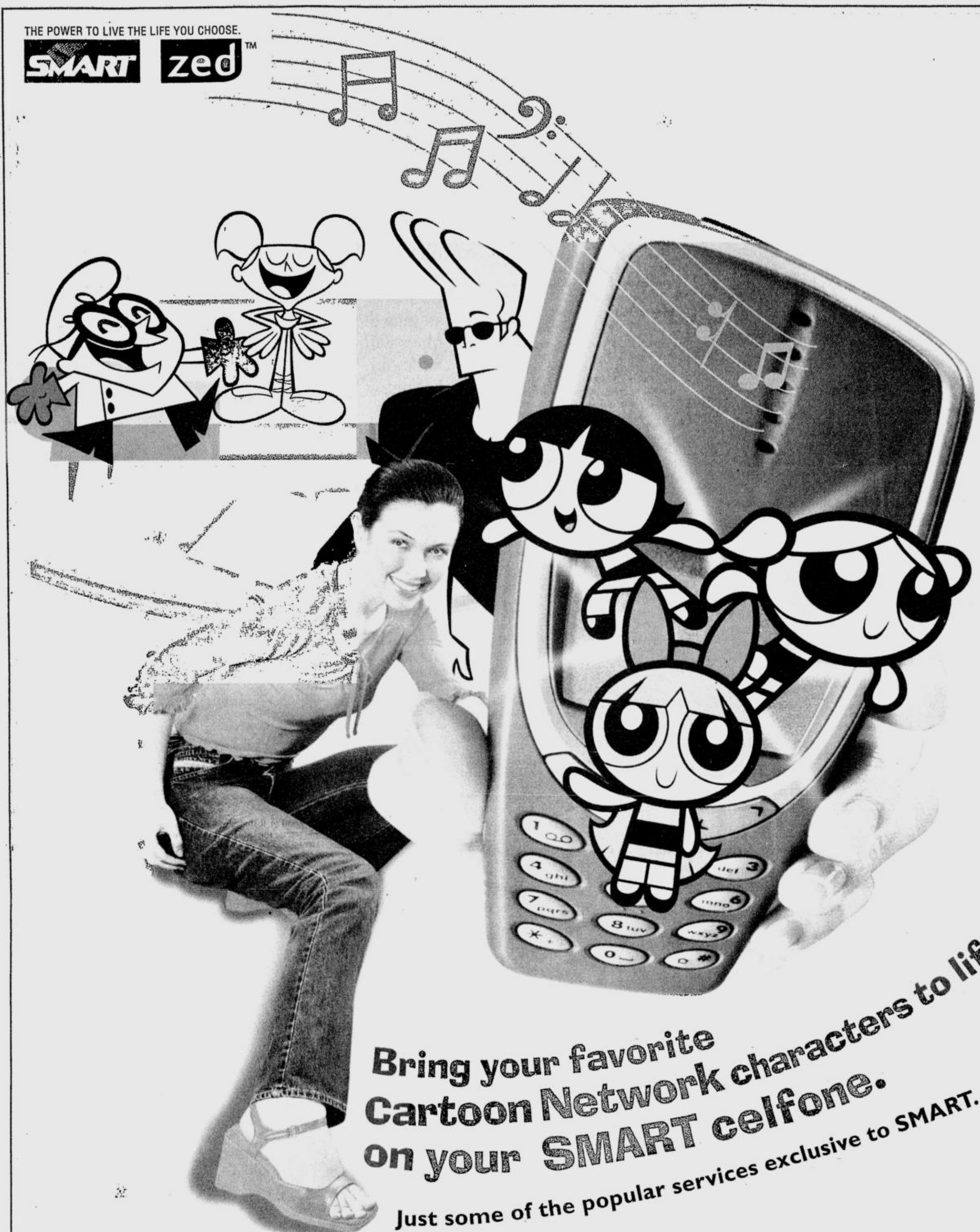

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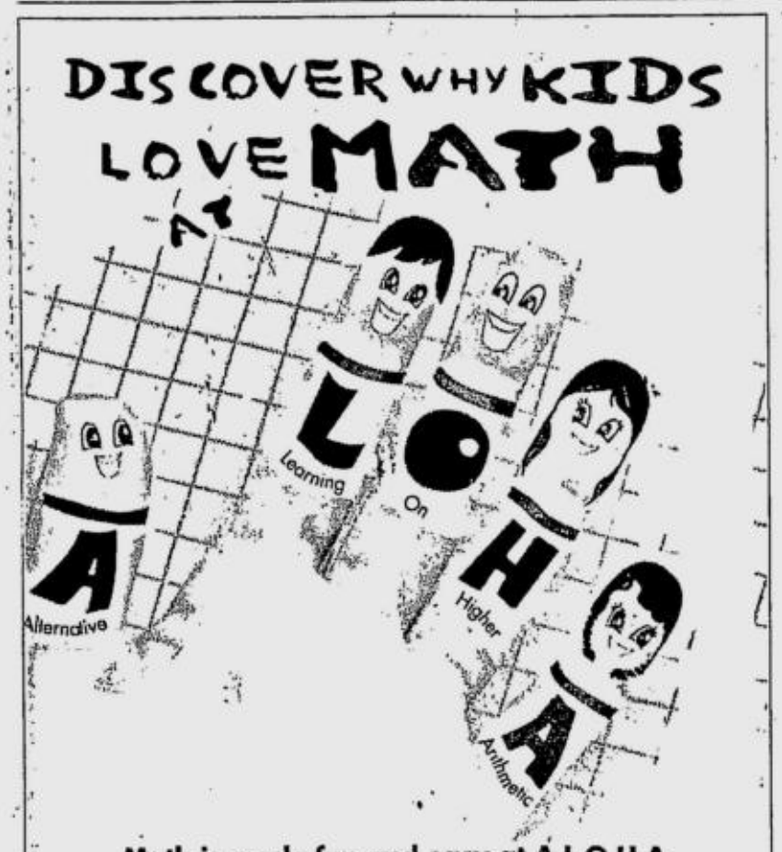

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ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Carol Burnett learns to laugh at adversity

By Leia Torre

CAROL Burnett is one of the funniest women ever to grace television, film and the stage. She inadvertently started writing her autobiography, "One More Time," while scribbling a letter to her three daughters on hotel stationery in New York.

Full speed ahead

After a few weeks, she had graduated to using an electric typewriter and tons of correction tape and liquid paper. It took her quite a while before she realized that the letter she was supposed to be writing had metamorphosed into a book—but after it dawned on her, it was full speed ahead!

By the time she had finished writing the book, she had also bought a word processor and a copying machine, much to the disbelief of her daughters.

The book is, first and foremost, a labor of love, and Burnett wrote it with the intention of leaving her daughters with something that would help them understand how their mother became what she is.

Labor of love

It was not until she had finished the book that she realized that her labor of love had become a journey of self-discovery, as well.

Born in San Antonio, Carol was named after Carole Lombard. Her mother, Louise, liked things simple, so she removed the "e." When she was a little more then two years old, her mother went off to Santa Monica, California to join her father, Jody.

Carol was left in the care of Nanny and Goggy, her grandmother and great-grandmother, respectively. Those years comprised the most idyllic period of her life.

Divorce

Shortly afterwards, she and Nanny took a train to join her mother in Hollywood, where she had transferred after her divorce from Carol's father. Carol and Nanny were then installed in a one-room apartment with a bed that "came out of the wall." Needless to say, Nanny got the bed and Carol got the couch!

Thus began the part of her life that would mold Burnett's personality the most and guide her on the road to becoming what she is today.

From reenacting the most popular movies with her friends to singing the blues with her mother, her hobbies prepared her for her future life as a performer.

From reenacting movies with her friends to singing the blues with her mom, her hobbies prepared her for her future life as an actress

BURNETT. Her book is a labor of love.

Meddling ways

It was also during this time that Christine, her little half-sister, was born. Her mother had been having an affair with a married man, and Christine was the result. It was in this part of the book that Nanny's meddling ways started to become more evident. She did everything in her power in order to alienate Carol and Christine from their mother. Louise knew this and resented Nanny for it. Carol did not always seem to be destined to perform. While she was studying at Hollywood High, she was a member of the staff of the school paper. She had a regular column which featured "bits of campus gossip, information and observations concerning events, fashion, advice—all of it tongue-in-cheek." She wrote the column anonymously and enjoyed being able to say what she thought with no danger of anybody getting mad at her.

Mysterious benefactor

Upon graduating from high school, Carol enrolled in the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA). They did not have enough money to pay for her tuition, untill a mysterious benefactor,

CAROL/p.D5

Not your usual TV comedy

GOODMAN. Average guy in every way, except one.

THEY say you can never go home again—especially if you've already come out of the closet. In the half-hour comedy "Normal, Ohio," creators and executive producers Bonnie and Terry Turner ("That '70s Show," "3rd Rock from the Sun") and Bob Kushell ("The Simpsons") team up with John Goodman, one of television's most gifted and respected comedic actors, to examine what it means to be true to yourself and your family, no matter how unsupportive and unforgiving they are.

In denial

What is normal? A grandfather who is closed-minded to accepting other races, religions and sexual orientations; a grandmother in denial who fights to keep the peace in her family; a sister who dates losers; a son who leaves his wife and family to find himself; an ex-wife who marries a man who's the complete opposite of her former husband, or a son without a back-up plan for his future who decides not to go to medical school?

William "Butch" Gamble Jr. (John Goodman) is a confident, good-natured, average guy in every way . . . except one. After coming out of the closet to his ex-wife, son, and family, Butch left his small mid-western community for the greener and more tolerant pastures of Los Angeles.

Hometown

But after four years of being away from the people he loves most, Butch returns to his Ohio hometown and the home of his sister Pamela (Joely Fisher), a tough, sexy, single mother of two children—Robbie (Codie Kasch), a Nascar-loving 12-year-old who's worried that Butch's sexual orientation is hereditary, and Kimberly (Julia McIlvaine), a book-smart 15-year-old, who is not as comfortable with men as her mother and Uncle Butch are.

Determined to re-establish his relationship with his now adult son, Charlie (Greg Pitts), Butch finds that, while Charlie begrudgingly accepts his father's lifestyle, he still has not forgiven him for leaving.

New husband

Adding fuel to the fire is Butch's ex-wife Elizabeth (Mo Gaffney), who still has feelings for him, and Elizabeth's new husband Danny (Charles Rocket), who is as buttoned down and white-collared as Butch is untucked and working class.

Rounding out the Gamble family are Butch's parents—dad Bill (Orson Bean), who finds his son's lifestyle "unnatural" and mom Joan (Anita Gillette), who can't bring herself to say that her son is gay.

Catch the extraordinary comedy at the Gamble household on "Normal, Ohio." Fridays at 9:30 p.m. on ABC-5.

Carol Burnett learns to laugh at adversity

(From page D4)

made it possible for her to continue on the road to her dream by placing $50 in the pigeonhole slot of Apartment 102.

Contrary to the expectations of almost everyone who knew her, she took up Theater Arts, but majored in English instead of Film or Theater in order to appease Nanny. It turned out, however, that most of the breaks she got on campus were given to her by the music department, which was "not on speaking terms" with the theater department.

Performance

While in college, she met a lot of interesting people, one of whom would become her future husband. Don was Armenian and Nanny definitely did not approve of him. It was after their performance at the bon voyage party of the head of the music department that Don and she met their future benefactor, Mr. C.

After seeing them perform, he loaned them a thousand dollars each after determining that they were indeed serious about getting to New York and making a career out of the performing arts. A few weeks after that, Carol was off to New York while Don opted to follow in the fall.

Show

That's the most important part of the book. The rest of the story is, as they say, history. Carol made the first step towards making it big by putting up a show with her fellow aspirants. They were then "discovered" and the agencies were falling over themselves trying to sign them up. She and Don got married.

She "kidnapped" Christine and took her to New York when it became evident that neither Nanny nor their mother was capable of watching over her. Her father died, and then her mother. Just when her career was beginning to soar, she and Don filed for divorce.

Although these were milestones in her life, her early years were still the most important period in terms of their making her the person she is.

Living with the divorce of her parents made her stronger. Even before her folks split up, however, she had to be strong in order to cope with the fact that they had left her in Nanny's care, instead of taking care of her themselves.

Alcoholism

Coping with her father's alcoholism, and later on her mother's as well, required a great degree of patience and understanding. It is therefore remarkable that Burnett has emerged from such a chaotic and unique childhood as a very confident, upbeat person.

The book is clearly imbued with the personality of the person who wrote it. Burnett manages to find humor even in the most painful memories. She takes the things we think of as commonplace and turns them into something that contains wonder and humor.

Failures and successes

She reveals both the failures and successes of her loved ones, but somehow makes them cease to matter. She emphatically states, over and over again, that in the long run, those failures and successes don't count for very much.

Carol Burnett made it to the top through her talent, her guts, and the love of some people around her, which helped her succeed where others would have thrown in the towel. We can learn a lot from that!

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TWO FOR THE SHOW

Regine Velasquez counts her blessings

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA AND RICKY T. GALLARDO

REGINE Velasquez has achieved a lot as a singer. Her "Independent Women" concert with Jaya was successful, and she's performing again in "R 15" tonight at the Manila Hotel. But she still dreams of becoming a serious actress.

However, she's aware of her limitations at the moment, so she sticks to light romantic flicks like "Wanted: Perfect Mother," "Do Re Mi," "Dahil May Isang Ikaw," and "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw."

Regine admits that she didn't take acting seriously back in the '80s because she loved singing more. "*Napipilitan lang ako noon. At saka medyo nahihiya pa akong umarte noon. Ngayon, gusto ko na.* Fulfilling *pala ang* acting, *tulad ng* singing. I enjoy creating a character onscreen," Regine shares.

She considers her career a blessing even if it prevented her from pursuing a college degree. She is grateful because show business gave her the opportunity to send all her siblings to school.

"This career made it possible for me to give my family a comfortable life. It taught me courage, self-confidence and perseverance. I matured a lot because of this business," Regine reflects pensively.

Lani Misalucha loves singing

Lani Misalucha got a standing ovation when she performed in "Crossover Presents" a few weeks ago at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Manila. The Opera and Gerard Salonga prepared the audience for a relaxing evening when they did their version of "Tattoed on My Mind," "Brazil," and "I'll Be Watching You." Jon Santos was amusing as he impersonated senatorial candidates, emphasizing their quirks.

Lani's signature song, "Loving You," her Whitney Houston medley ("Didn't We Almost Have It All," "All At Once," "Home") and duet ("The Closer I Get to You" with Gerard Salonga) got loud applause and squeals.

But Lani feels that she's a late bloomer. Her first album and single "Somebody Warm Like Me" was received mildly by the public. She was still a college student at the Philippine Christian University when she began to sing in lounges.

"*Tumatakbo ako sa mga* hotel *para kumanta.* I did three 45-minute sets a night. I wasn't paid very well but I enjoyed it," Lani recalls.

She became a back-up vocalist of Bodgie's Law of Gravity when her sister, May Bayot left for Japan. She owes her tag, "Multiplex Queen" to her lounge acts.

"We were singing at a hotel when Bodgie asked me to sing a Whitney Houston number. Then I was offered a chance to record other Whitney Houston songs for multiplex tapes.

"Eventually I also recorded the multiplex songs of Barbra Streisand, Mariah Carey and Celine Dion. I was paid P500 per song for lead vocals and P100 if I did back-up," Lani shares.

VELASQUEZ. Wants to be a serious actress.

MISALUCHA. Started as a multiplex singer.

Plus One's new video out

We recently saw Plus One's newest video, "Here in My Heart" on MTV's Fresh and Channel V's Launch Pad over the weekend. The video was entirely shot in Singapore and showed the guys sporting new looks. Singing about two people who were worlds apart but were constantly together in their hearts, the song hit home.

Gabe Combs relates that doing music videos is more exhausting than recording. "I knew that making a record would be hard work but doing a video is harder. But then I realize that we have been called together to do this, so I guess it's worth doing," Gabe says.

"We have good chemistry. We're not just five guys singing next to each other. We work hard to connect and click," Nathan Walters adds.

"We have to become more than just five good singers. Our job is to become one great group," Nate Cole grins.

Feedback

From July Abracosa of Valencia, Intercity Homes, Muntinlupa: "Thank you for your commentary on the new 'TV Patrol' show. I'm afraid that before this month is over, the old 'TV Patrol' as nurtured by Noli de Castro will just be a distant memory. It was a tight newscast before but now it has become a mixture of 'Balitang K' and tabloid TV. Marc Logan's limericks and sound effects are annoying.

"The three newscasters also seem to imitate the poses of their counterparts in "Saksi." And why do they need to reintroduce themselves in the end, when even the kids at home know them?

"Noli de Castro tried to give his interviewees the benefit of the doubt and did not act as a prosecutor, insisting on his way of thinking. I know that there are others who feel the same way but have no way of making themselves heard..."

Reuben Laurente finally gets a degree

Last year, it was Cynthia Patag who proudly went onstage to receive her long overdue college diploma. This year, it's the turn of Reuben Laurente of The CompanY to finally tuck in a degree 15 years after he first stepped on the grounds of UP Diliman in 1986.

Now 32, Laurente will surely be all smiles at the graduation rites at the Diliman campus today as he gets his Bachelor of Interior Design diploma.

"It took me very long to finish all my academic requirements. Then one day I made a vow to finish whatever I'd started, so I made sure I re-enrolled and patiently studied for the past two years," he shares.

Laurente went to work as a fashion merchandiser for the Giordano label while waiting for The CompanY to take off. With his degree now, he has the best of both worlds, applying his designing skills while enjoying singing with his group.

Pops' Asian cruise and US tour

Pops Fernandez left last Thursday for the taping of her much-anticipated Asian cruise summer special, to be produced by her mother studio, ABS-CBN.

Cruising with Pops to hotspots in Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia are Piolo Pascual and Ryan Agoncillo, who will be directing some of the segments. Joining them are Singapore-based Filipino theatre actor RJ Rosales (Of "Chang and Eng" fame) and MTV VJ Donita Rose.

After the cruise, Pops will fly to the United States for her US concert tour. Pops is scheduled to perform live at New York's Town Hall Show on May 5, at the Grand Olympic Hall on May 19 in Los Angeles, and at the City Center Pavilion in Reno, Nevada on May 26. She will have Troy Montero and Franco Laurel as guests.

Pops will be meeting her sons Robin and Ram, who are both vacationing in the States.

Side A enjoys music, food and fatherhood

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

LISTENING to the crowd roar and scream at the University of Baguio can give you an adrenaline boost. Side A's rendition of their original hit "Will I Ever" and the groovy cover "Fill Me In" keeps the mood light and energetic even if 4,000 people around and above you make the place hot and humid.

Love songs

But Side A keeps things cool and sentimental with love songs like "Sana Maulit Muli," "Hold On," "I Believe in Dreams," "Set You Free," and "Tell Me." Then they keep things lively and upbeat with '80s punk cover songs like "Streetbeat," "Fantasy," "Everybody Wants to Rule the World," Ricky Martin's "Shebang" and "Tuloy Pa Rin" and keep us dancing and begging for more.

Side A encourages their audience to dance and have fun. They don't mind if their audience just sits and listens but they want to affect their listeners.

Joey Generoso (vocals/acoustic guitar) grins, "*Dati yung mga* fans *namin nakikinig lang pero* lately *kapag tinutugtog namin ang* "Everybody Wants to Rule the World" *ang daming sumasayaw at tumatayo. Iba na ang audience ngayon.*"

Naldy Gonzales (keyboards/vocals) adds, "You really have to entertain them. We think of our audience when we perform."

Joey Benin (bass/vocals) interjects, "*Minsan yung akala naming nakakailang tugtugin, iyon pa ang OK sa audience.*"

They agree that their signature songs would be "Foolish Heart," "Tuloy Pa Rin" and "Hold On" because their listeners never get tired of hearing them. They admit that songs with foul language are definite no-no's in their repertoire.

There are times that they like the melody of the song but the connotations of the lyrics are foul so they avoid performing it. They have managed to remain wholesome all these years because their bond is strong.

Joey G reveals, "*Mas madalas kaming magkakasama kaysa sa pamilya namin.*"

Amazing

Joey B nods, "*Kahit pare-pareho yung kuwento, natatawa pa rin kami.* It's amazing, we still discover things about each other even if we've been together for a long time."

Joey G grins, "*Yung* jokes *alam na namin* by heart."

Naldy smiles, "It doesn't take much effort for us to jell."

If that's the case, how would they describe each other?

Kelly Badon on Joey G: "*Laging inuubusan ng pagkain.*"

Joey G on Joey B: "*Alaskador!*"

Joey B on Naldy: "*Kung anu-ano ang nabubunggo.* Accident-prone."

Naldy on Ernie: "*Ang bagal ng* pick-up! Delayed reaction sa mga jokes. *Natawa na lahat, tapos bigla na lang siyang matatawa mag-isa.*"

Ernie on Kelly: "*Laging bumubulong sa mga* presscon."

Aside from the constant flow of jokes, stories and "*alaskahan*," Side A bonds whenever they eat good food. They have their own food specialties. Joey G cooks pasta, Naldy makes fish miso soup and *liempo*, and Joey G's kids love his seafood pasta.

SIDE A members' passion for music, family and life is contagious!

They all have this glow when they talk about their kids and fatherhood. Naldy videotaped the birth of his two sons, Nate and Hans. Ernie doesn't spoil his kids and cooks barbecue and *inihaw* on weekends to give his wife, Lorie a break. Joey G makes it a point to say goodbye to his kids, Ynna and JJ, before leaving the house. Joey B allows his four kids, Boey, Jako, Clara and Sara, to sleep in the master's bedroom even if they have their own rooms. Ernie takes his daughters, Abigail, Kelly Ann and Kyrielle, on regular nature trips.

It's easy to see why fans still scream when they perform, because Side A's passion for music, family and life is contagious!

'Two Worlds' enhances listeners' appreciation of classical music

BY POCHOLO CONCEPCION

THEY always come in pairs: Lennon and McCartney, Simon and Garfunkel, Rogers and Hammerstein —great composers who have crafted many a popular tune as songwriting partners.

Listening fare

But what about Dave Grusin and Lee Ritenour? Surely we've heard of them, their music as individual artists even forming part of our listening fare as teenagers in the early '80s.

Recently, these two respected figures, said to be musical soul mates in contemporary jazz, got together and recorded "Two Worlds" (MCA), an album that has succeeded in enhancing our appreciation of classical music.

For almost a month now, we've been listening to nothing else but the "Two Worlds" CD. There are 13 tracks, all of which open our ears to the wonderful subtleties and measured "movements" we never thought Grusin and Ritenour were capable of dishing out.

It is not, however, just one of those fleeting romps between two major dudes looking for something to revive flagged-out careers. Or a one-time jam meant to flaunt the improvisatory skills of jazz eras in a classical album.

On the contrary, this is how the album's press bio puts it:

Classical music

"Long before he established himself as one of Los Angeles' premier session guitarists in the '70s and later as one of jazz fusion's most innovative players (with over 25 solo recordings), Ritenour studied classical music as a teenager and took private lessons with renowned classical guitarist Christopher Parkening.

"He later studied with Parkening at the University of Southern California, where he gave numerous classical recitals as part of his guitar performance degree."

"Grusin grew up with classical music and earned his degree from the University of Colorado in classical piano. While for the most part applying this training to his Oscar-winning film scoring career, the pianist-composer once wrote a clarinet concerto for Eddie Daniels and created the piece 'Centennial Almanac' for orchestra and choir as part of the 'Colorado's Centennial' celebration in 1975."

With those credentials, the objective then was "to do a classical style record, rather than simply jazz versions of classical pieces. The goal was to bring the two men's talents and experience with jazz, pop, arranging and orchestration into this setting, turning all of these sensibilities towards classical music."

Respect

In a nutshell, Grusin and Ritenour aimed to treat the music with great respect, while also conceiving something fresh. Is that possible?

Honestly, we're 100 percent ignorant of the album's material. One thing we're quite positive about, though: some of the tracks have transported us to newfound heights of aural stimulation.

For lack of a better description, the experience could be comparable to a sense of well-being, a cool, peaceful feeling in which one imbibes new sounds like they're the most beautiful stuff there is.

A quick rundown of the memorable numbers should give you an idea of the sacred grounds Grusin and Ritenour dared tread onto:

"Concerto in A Minor for Four Keyboards and Strings (Movement 1)" by Johann Sebastian Bach. This opens the album and quickly sets us up in an upbeat mood.

"Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 Aria (*Cantilena*)" by Heitor Villa-lobos features "the world's reigning supersoprano," Renee Fleming. It is hard to imagine, after hearing her mellifluous voice, that Fleming used to sing regularly in a jazz trio during her college years. In another track, "River Songs (The Water Is Wide/ Shenandoah)," Ms Fleming pricks more sentimental emotions.

Flutist

"Suite Popular Espanola No. 3 Cancion" by Manuel de Fala and arranged by Grusin, has flutist James Walker arousing the sense of wonder that a brand new day brings.

"Rumanian Folk Dances" by Bela Bartok turns the spotlight on violinist Gil Shaham and it feels like some European women appear in their native costumes, slanting their heads as if inviting us to join them in the fray.

By and large, "Two Worlds" may not just be about jazz and classical meeting on common ground. Rather, it seems like some distant, glorious past reality flashing into the present day—as bright and bubbly as the feeling of a fine good morning without the downer of hearing any bad news at all.

When show biz and politics meet courtesy of Mother Lily

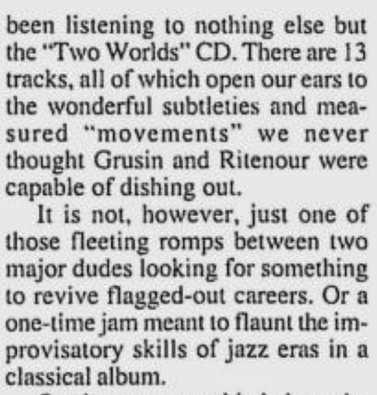
BY REMY M. UMEREZ

ENDORSING some political candidates keeps Mother Lily quite busy nowadays. Some of her best bets are Armida Siguion Reyna, Atty. Kiko Pangilinan, Bong Revilla Jr., and Franklin Drilon, all of whom have had hosting stints on television.

Armida is known to be a fighter for freedom of expression. She only has kind words for her rival candidate for congress in Makati, Teddy Boy Locsin. "The ultimate choice won't be between the devil and the deep blue sea, but between one who's good, and one who's better," she says.

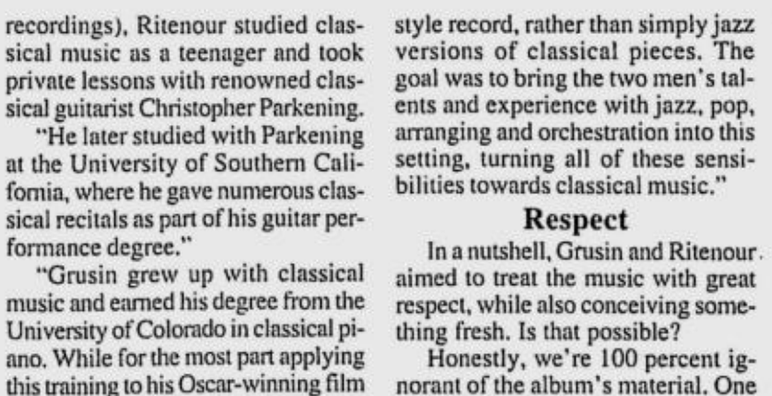
Priorities

Kiko Pangilinan's priorities are clear: God, family, country. Although he's married to Sharon Cuneta, the megastar, Kiko remains down-to-earth.



KIKO and Sharon. No reason to doubt his good intentions.

Sharon tells us why her husband deserves to win: "In our five years of marriage, Francis has never given me reason to doubt his good intentions. He is a loving husband and a good father. He belongs to a dying breed of men who consider marriage as something sacred," she reveals.



SEN. Drilon (right) jogging with his wife Mila and Regal matriarch Lily Monteverde at Greenhills.

Intrigues

Politics, according to Bong Revilla Jr., is dirtier than the intrigues in show business. Bong ought to know because he has been the subject of charges ranging from his being a drug lord to a double-faced or *balimbing* friend.

"It will destroy your family and your dignity *at kung mahina din lang ang loob mo ay tiyak na aatakihin ka,*" he sighs. But he continues to hold on to his convictions.

Franklin Drilon may not have a Megastar or Star for All Seasons for a wife but his popularity continues to grow.

The Drilons are not a political family and the four siblings did not have an affluent life while growing up in Iloilo.

Values

"My father had the greatest influence in me. He was a bank employee who taught us the values of honesty and integrity. He kept on saying 'Be careful because you are handling other people's money and therefore you must be true to the trust imposed on you."

Franklin and Mila Drilon and Mother Lily became friends through their constant jogging at Greenhills. She came to know of the interesting love story between the widow and the widower and sees it as a great story idea for a movie. What Mother Lily particularly likes about Drilon is his integrity.

On the other hand, Inday Badiday or Ate Luds feels privileged to have a friend in former Mayor Alfredo Lim, "He is a man who calls a spade a spade at *wala siyang inuurungan basta't nasa tama siya,*" Inday says.

Lim's heroic exploits has inspired three movie companies to film his life. His goal is to fight graft and corruption. A liar, he says, has no business in government.

He could have opted for a seat in the Senate but he prefers action to enacting laws.

Start each day with a thankful thought.

****

CLEANSE. Every morning and evening use a gentle cleanser that effectively removes dirt, oil, and makeup.

Regular soap will remove surface dirt, but with air pollution and make-up residue, you'll need deep down cleansing that will get rid of embedded dirt. This causes clogged pores which result in pimples! Use ***Avon Basics Really Clean Gel Cleanser.*** It gets rid of deep down dirt easily and safely.

****

Write letters the old-fashioned way -- with pen and paper. Hand-written notes are more intimate and special.

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TONE. It's the second step in your daily regimen. After cleansing, toning clears away any leftover dirt your cold cream or cleanser left behind. Use ***Avon Basics Astringent with AHA*** --formulated with

Pray. Nothing puts things into perspective better than spending time with God.

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MOISTURIZE. This is the last step in achieving healthy glowing skin. With the drying effects of the environment, skin tends to lose its natural levels of water and moisture. This results in dry and flaking skin. In other words, your skin gets thirsty! Applying a moisturizer after toning seals in moisture. Use ***Avon Basics Perfect Day Moisture Lotion*** during the day and also at night to get soft and supple skin. It's as light as water on your face, and it leaves no heavy residue!

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Recycle!

****

Eight hours of sleep everyday never hurt anyone. Especially your skin.

let's talk about becoming a knockout inside-out

Target a book a month. Nothing's more fun than a little one-on-one with a great book.

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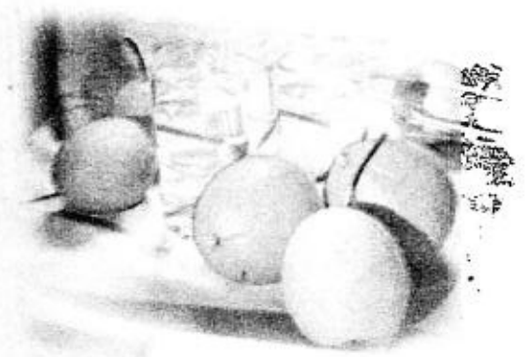
Make it a habit to volunteer with an orphanage.

****

Drink at least 8 glasses of water and eat lots of fruits -- clear skin awaits you.



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Alpha-Hydroxy Acid, an ingredient known to peel off dead skin cells to reveal new, clear skin. The result is skin that's refreshed and smooth!

****

Never order spaghetti on a date -- unless you want tomato sauce whiskers on your face.

****

CLEANSE, TONE & MOISTURIZE. Everyday. Day & Night.

****

Take care of a pet like a dog. It develops responsibility plus the love you get in return is immeasurable.

****

Begin an exercise routine like taebo. Not only will your health benefit, so will your skin!

****

Find new ways to continually improve your body, mind, and soul. It's just one of the BASICS in leading a happy life!

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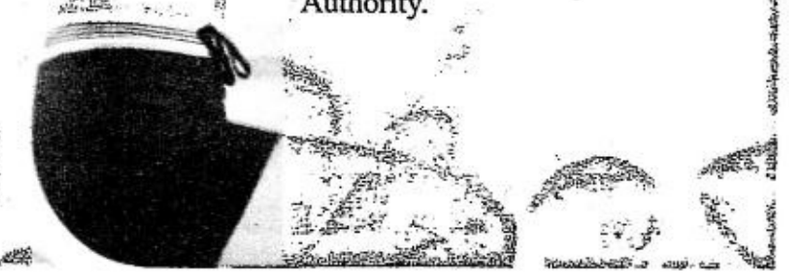

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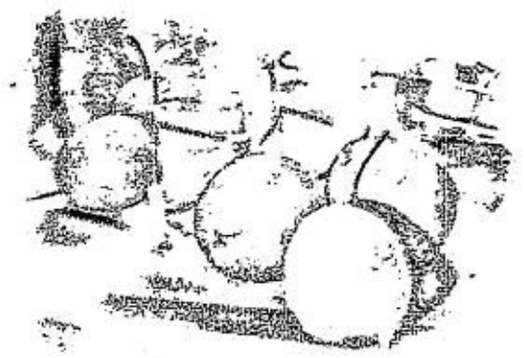

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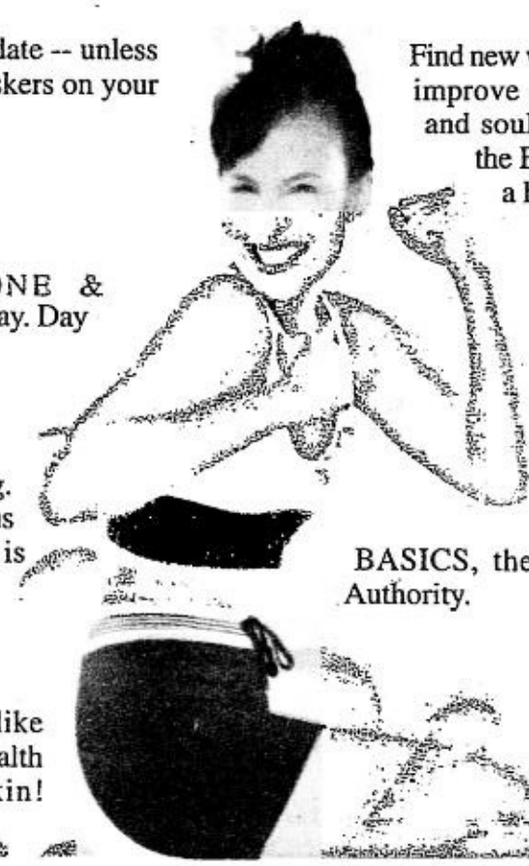

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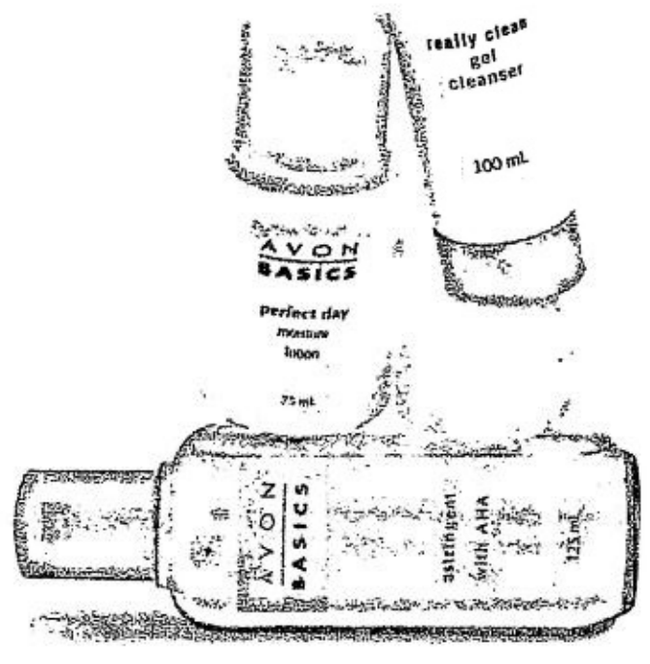

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it will never forget!"

let's talk

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SaturdaySPECIAL

Brosnan does a double-agent twist in 'The Tailor of Panama'

LOS ANGELES—John le Carre's spy stories stand as smart, sobering counterpoints to the theme-park thrills of James Bond.

Contrarian

How playfully contrarian, then, that the film adaptation of Le Carre's "The Tailor of Panama" co-stars the current Bond, Pierce Brosnan, doing a double-agent twist on 007.

Starring Geoffrey Rush in the title role, the film is a satisfying blend of action, intrigue, snappy dialogue, and dark humor. Director John Boorman's pacing is crisp and even, no small achievement considering what a mongrel medley of genres—spy caper, political drama, domestic comedy, buddy flick—the movie takes on.

Rush plays Harry Pendel, a British expatriate who runs a tailor shop in Panama, a business built less on stitching skills than his talent as a raconteur—notably, his fibs about being professional heir to a master Savile Row tailor.

"There's only so many people you can do that to, tell the truth," Harry says. "Others are different. They need to be tailored."

Harry has a happy life with his wife (Jamie Lee Curtis) and children and a reliable circle of friends, acquaintances, and customers. But secrets underlie Harry's façade of bliss and prosperity.

Enter Brosnan's Andrew Osnard, a jaded British spy exiled to Panama after flubbing an assignment. Sniffing around for one good score so he can retire in comfort, Osnard catches a whiff of Harry, and the game is afoot.

Canal planner

Osnard quickly dissects Harry's Savile Row pretensions and bullies the tailor into feeding him morsels about the Panama Canal from his clients and his wife, a canal planner.

Trouble is, Harry is unable to glean anything noteworthy. So he concocts ever wilder stories about overseas interests negotiating to buy the canal. Undeceived, Osnard plays along, since the canal tales give him an edge to achieve his financial goals.

Boorman describes Osnard as the "anti-Bond," and Brosnan bravely delivers on the reverse image of his own career meal ticket.

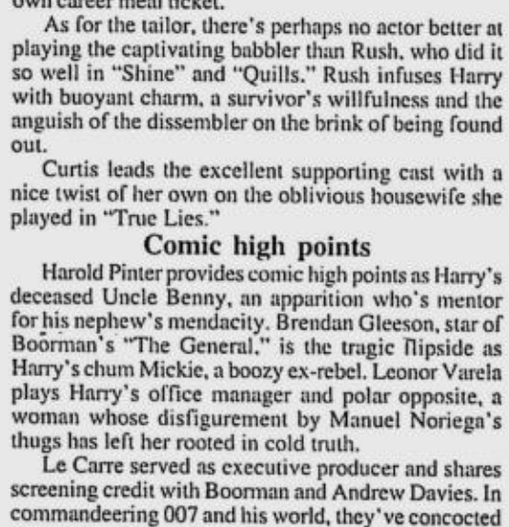
As for the tailor, there's perhaps no actor better at playing the captivating babbler than Rush, who did it so well in "Shine" and "Quills." Rush infuses Harry with buoyant charm, a survivor's willfulness and the anguish of the dissembler on the brink of being found out.

Curtis leads the excellent supporting cast with a nice twist of her own on the oblivious housewife she played in "True Lies."

Comic high points

Harold Pinter provides comic high points as Harry's deceased Uncle Benny, an apparition who's mentor for his nephew's mendacity. Brendan Gleeson, star of Boorman's "The General," is the tragic flipside as Harry's chum Mickie, a boozy ex-rebel. Leonor Varela plays Harry's office manager and polar opposite, a woman whose disfigurement by Manuel Noriega's thugs has left her rooted in cold truth.

Le Carre served as executive producer and shares screening credit with Boorman and Andrew Davies. In commandeering 007 and his world, they've concocted a taut, tart, refreshing representation of what "license to kill" might mean in a world more real and grim than Bond's. *AP*



BROSNAN. Plays a jaded British spy exiled to Panama after flubbing an assignment.

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ANTI-FUNGAL ADVISORY

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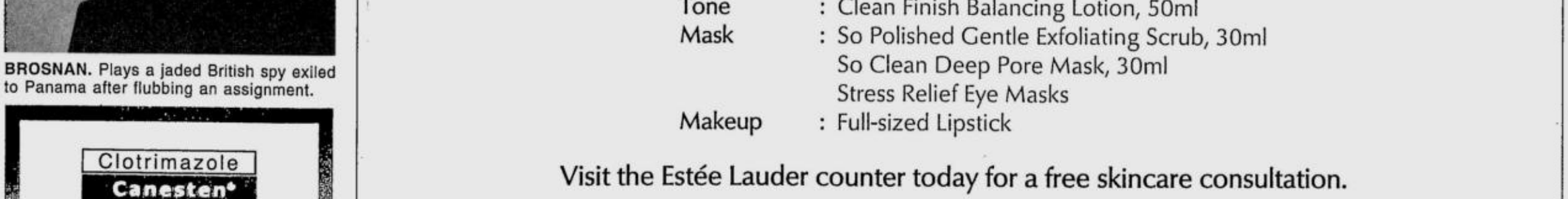

Anggun performs at Hard Rock Cafe

ASTAN diva Anggun returns to the Philippines in a concert at the Hard Rock Cafe on April 25 at 9 p.m. to promote her latest album, "Chrysalis." The singer is expected to perform such hits as "Snow in the Sahara," "Rose in the Wind" and her carrier single from her latest album, "Still Reminds Me."

Call 893-46661.

Regine at Manila Hotel

It's a double celebration for Asia's Songbird, Regine Velasquez as she marks her birthday and 15th year in show business in "R-15" today, April 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Fiesta Pavillon Grand Ballroom of the Manila Hotel.

Produced by EE Concert Productions, "R-15" will feature the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra with Gerard Salonga as musical director. Freddie Santos directs.

Tickets are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets and Manila Hotel.

Free albums

Music lovers will get a chance to own a free copy of Rachel Alejandro's new album "Tanging Pangarap" by logging in to www.MusicManila.com and answering trivia questions about Rachel.

MONTAGE

Album tracks include the carrier single "Tanging Pangarap," "High on Love," "Be Free to Fall in Love" and "Forever and a Day," Rachel's winning song at last year's Metropop Song Festival.

The promo will run from April 23 to May 2. Call 727-2201.

Madonna at the Grammys

Music icon Madonna was her usual spectacular self when she graced the 2001 Grammy awards. Her music was still captivating and her grand entrance still had that patented femme fatale shock value. With a little help from Dickies Coveralls, she was able to achieve her signature appeal.

Stepping out from a luxurious shiny Cadillac driven by teen rap artist Baby Bow-Wow, Madonna opened this year's Grammy awards with her hit song, "Music." Although Madonna didn't win any of the three Grammys she was nominated for, she managed to make her presence felt.

Cabangon in fundraiser

Noel Cabangon sings in a fund-raising concert for senatorial bets Wigberto Tañada and Solita Monsod at the '70s Bistro in Anonas, Quezon City on April 25 at 9 p.m.

Tañada and Monsod are both candidates of the People Power Coalition.

'Phantom Menace' on Star Movies

Star Movies presents the world cable premiere of George Lucas' box office hit "Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace" on April 29 at 9 p.m. with cast a that includes Liam Neeson, Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman and Samuel Jackson.

As imminent conflict brews between the powerful Trade Federation and the peaceful planet of Naboo, Jedi master Qui-Gon Jinn (Neeson) and his apprentice Obi-Wan Kenobi (McGregor) travel to Naboo to warn Queen Amidala (Portman) of the galactic fallout. Eventually, Naboo is invaded, which forces the Jedi to evacuate the planet with the Queen and her court.

'Baywatch Hawaii'

It's a new day on the Bay. Now, "Baywatch" relocates to the island paradise of Hawaii in "Baywatch Hawaii" on Star World every Sunday beginning April 28 at 6 p.m. The cast includes David Hasselhoff, Michael Bergan, Jason Brooks, Brande Roderick, Stacy Kamano and Jason Momoa.

ANGGUN. Promoting her latest album, "Chrysalis."

When the world's most famous lifeguard, Mitch Buchanan (Hasselhoff) launches a state-of-the-art training center for his top colleagues from around the globe, he agrees to a pact that changes everything. In a top secret deal with the Hawaiian government, Buchanan and his team must serve as a special "strike force" investigating international crime and putting their lives at greater risk. (*Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam*)

"THE PHANTOM MENACE." Premieres on April 29.

Take Care Of Your Card

Your credit card is very important. With it you can do so many things, which you cannot do with your cash or check. It is your access key to e-commerce, your constant companion through the ins and outs of this modern financial environment, and your safety net for modern day emergencies. It is your practical, handy, easy to use source of convenience. Without it you would certainly have a hard time going about your day-to-day affairs. Life would really be difficult without the credit card.

Try to imagine going back to the old way of paying through cash or check. You go through malls and shops and try to look for something that you need. You find what you are looking for and decide to buy it. You get a hold of your wallet and rummage through the cash that you have carelessly stuck inside. You spend about three minutes counting the ten's, the twenty's, the fifty's, and other bills you find inside your wallet. When you finally finished counting you take the cash from the wallet only to realize that the amount you have is not enough for the item you want. You put the cash back in the wallet and retreat from the shop – depressed and beaten. You go home sad for not having been able to buy that which you wanted to buy.

Modern living has given you the tool to prevent such situations from happening – your credit card. And to really benefit from all that it has to offer, all you need do is keep it safe and secure all the time. After all, when you take care of your card, you take care of your self and your investments.

The following are some helpful tips on how to properly take care of your credit card.

• Know where your credit cards are all the time. Always place them in secure places. Avoid flashing your cards in risky public places and try to be as discreet as possible in giving them to cashiers or waiters for charging.

• Keep track of your credit card's expiry date. Credit card companies normally replace your card at least a month prior to expiry date.

• Avoid giving out information about yourself and your credit card over the phone, on the outside of envelopes, and over unsecured sites in the internet except to authorize company personnel. These are areas where most frauds take place. Always keep in mind the security of your information and the possible consequences that a leakage may bring about.

• Know the difference among your different cards. Charge cards, debit cards, ATM cards have different uses and different benefits to offer. They also have different measures upon loss or theft. Knowing them means knowing what to do when they are lost or stolen.

• Report the loss of your credit card as soon as possible. Remember that the credit card company can only act on a theft or a loss upon the report of such. Without such report the company is as powerless as you.

• When using the cards for any transaction, see to it that the card is returned to you in the fastest possible time and that it is really your card that is returned to you. When the personnel takes more than thirty minutes to process your card there is more than enough reason to suspect something. Be careful when you hand in your card to strangers.

The credit card is very vital in today's business set-up. It has so much to offer you in terms of benefits and conveniences. Thus it pays to take care of the credit card. It just takes a little bit of caution and you're set.

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'The Image Within' exhibit showcases Torre's visual artistry

By Jeanne Lim

FRESH. Spontaneous. Unpredictable. These are only a few of the adjectives used to describe the paintings of Nestor U. Torre.

Nestor Torre? Paintings? Yes, indeed. Although he is best known for his work in theater, television and the print media, Torre has always been interested and involved in the visual arts. Now another title can be added to his string of already impressive ones: playwright, author, director, reviewer, teacher – and visual artist.

MIRAGE

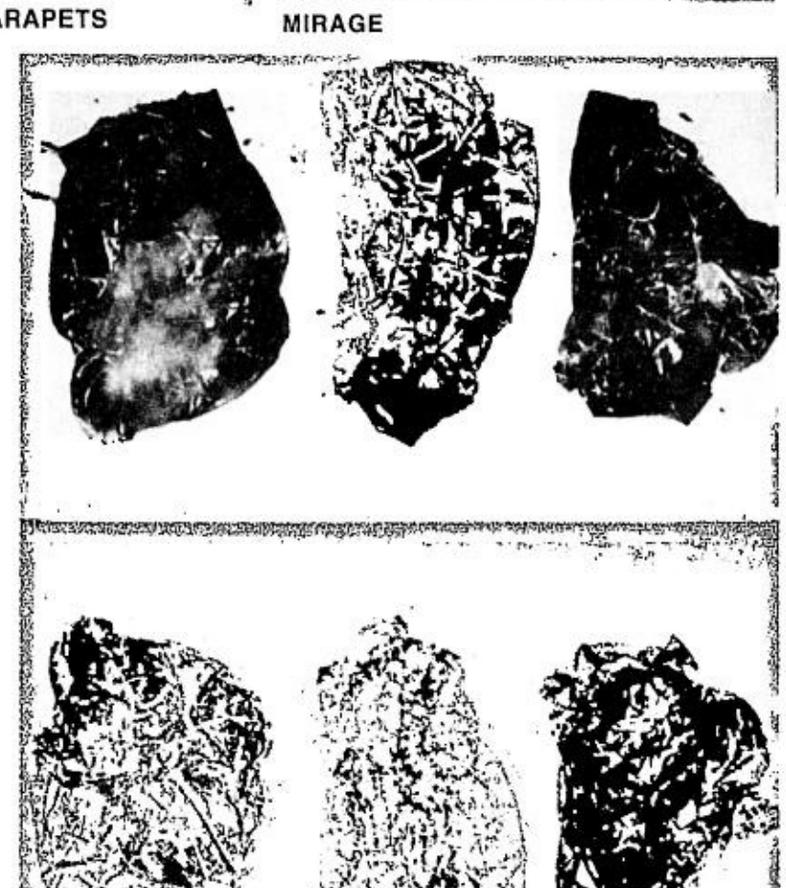
PARAPETS

Done mostly in Chinese ink and brush, the paintings reflect an Oriental influence. This is the result of the artist's extended stay in China, where he imbibed and was greatly inspired by Chinese art and painting techniques. Yet the works are more Japanese in their minimalism and smooth flowing lines.

The artist calls some of his pieces "accidental" in the sense that they are spontaneous experiments in the new possibilities of art materials and techniques. Eschewing the standard approach, he begins his works without expectations. It's a matter of letting the painting find itself – with judicious control by the artist, of course.

This unconventional approach has resulted in works that have prompted friends and impartial viewers to dub them "fresh" and to urge the artist to exhibit them.

Although originally not done for public showing, Torre's works will be showcased in a one-night exhibit at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24 at Araceli Limcaco Dans' new studio at the Dans residence at 48 Scout Tuason corner Scout Fernandez, Quezon City.



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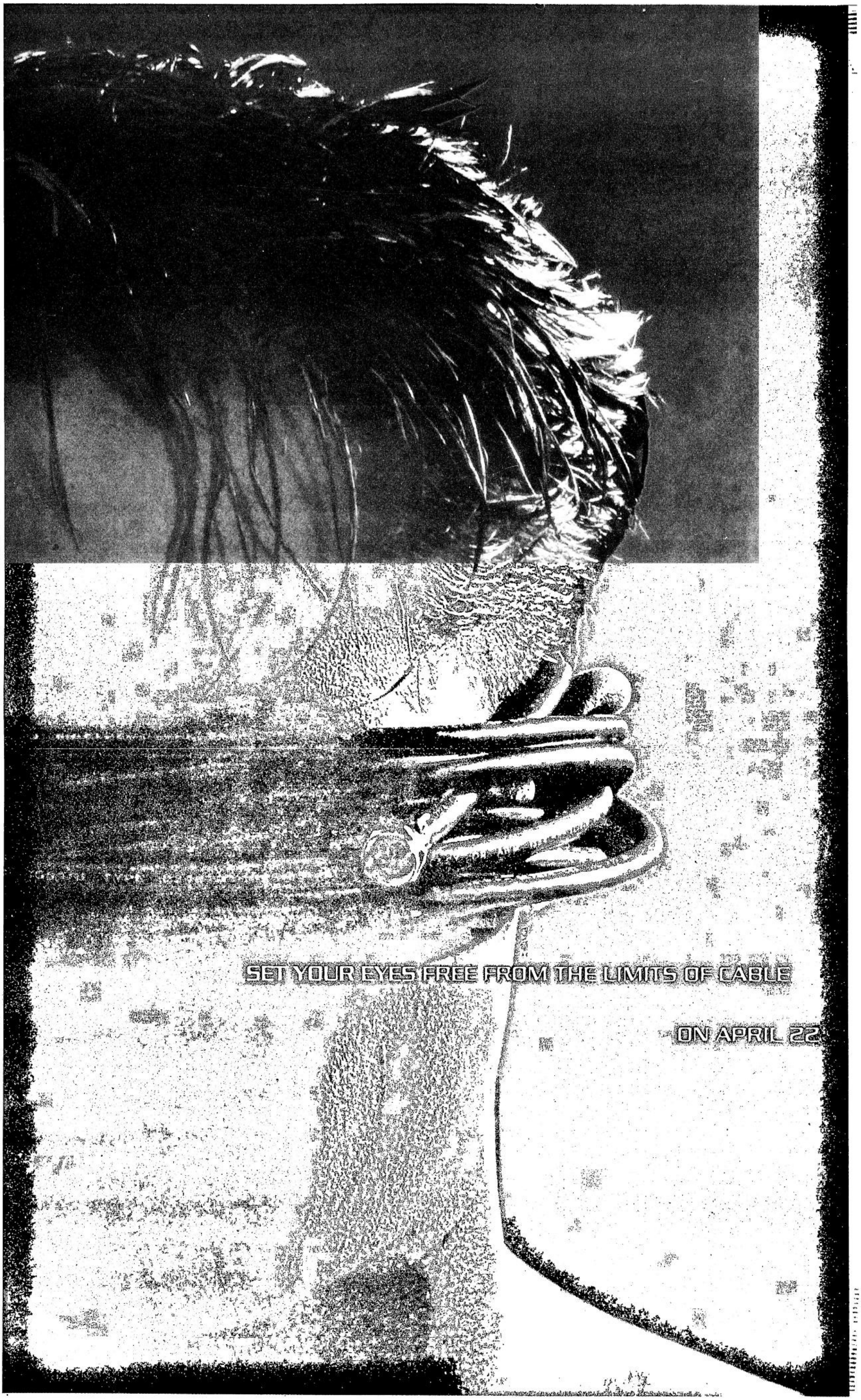
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Send to 2333. The full list of commands for your HandyPet will be sent to your phone.

For instructions on how to create your Handicat and Meowisha pet on InfoText, please visit www.globeinteractive.com.ph

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1

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Click HandyPet and select Get Pet to create your new pets

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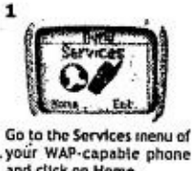
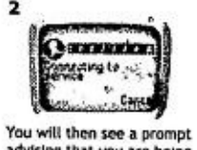


Go to the Services menu of your WAP-capable phone and click on Home.

2



You will then see a prompt advising that you are being connected to the service.

3

Once connected, the Globe Homepage will appear. Click on New Sites or Games, then to Wireless Games. Click "No" to register, if you are a first time user, then select Wireless Pets and wap away. For more information on Wireless Pets, visit www.wirelessgames.com/pets.

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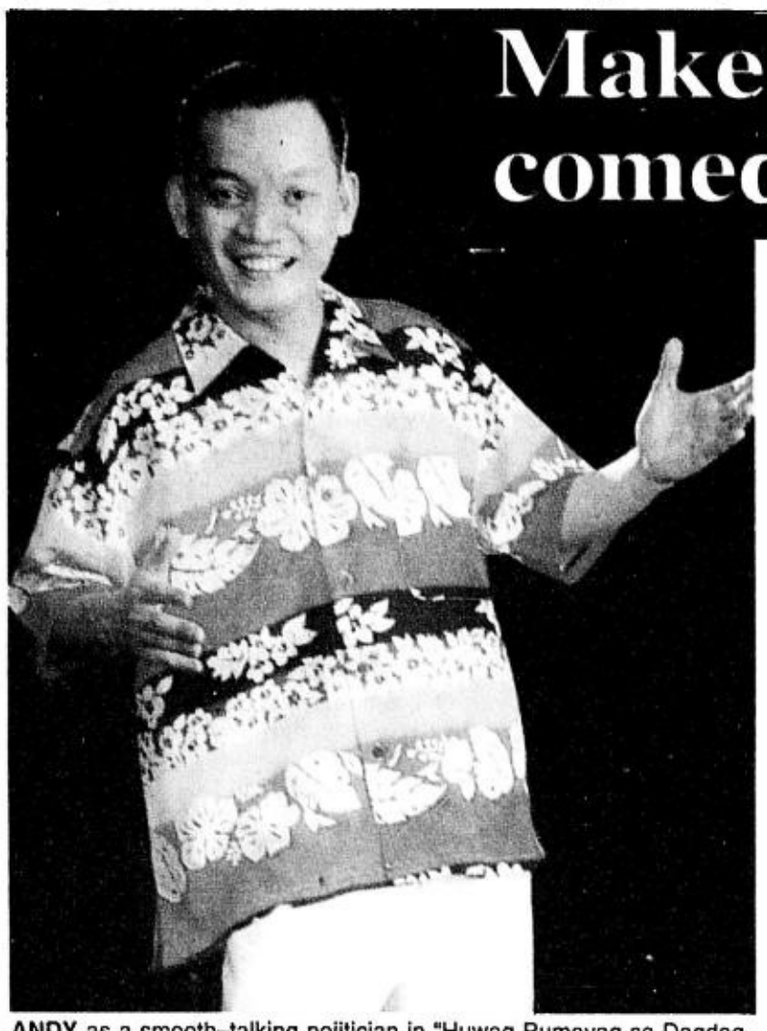
SaturdaySPECIAL

Make way for singer-comedian Andy Bais



ANDY as a smooth–talking poiitician in "Huwag Pumayag sa Dagdag–Bawas."

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

YEARS ago, all Andy Bais wanted to do was to sing. This was at Silliman University in Dumaguete City, where Andy appeared in some stage musicals (in "Godspell," a fellow cast member was Junix Inocian, who decades later would play The Engineer in the hit London musical, "Miss Saigon").

Deserving

—But that's another story.

This piece is about Andy Bais, who's as deserving of notice, applause and the show biz public's enthusiastic support as Junix.

Andy has always loved singing, which is why, years ago, he auditioned for a slot in the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit's prestigious annual Fe S. Panlilio talent search.

His golden voice did get him into the finals, and Andy proceeded to create a performance showcase for himself as a balladeer. This was when he got a rude awakening that was to permanently change his image and future as a performer.

AS a country bumpkin in "Magsimula Ka."

AND as the lead player in the musical–comedy revue, "Andy Bais and a Cast of Thousands."

The search's director took one look at Andy's list of standard songs, and rejected them out of hand. "Take a look at yourself in the mirror, why don't you?" he rather undiplomatically advised Andy.

Balladeer

"I don't think you'll see a debonair balladeer reflected there. You sing well, but you look like a comedian—so, why don't you project yourself accordingly?"

Ouch, that hurt! But it's a testament to Andy's eagerness to improve himself and his openness to criticism that he did as the brutally honest director advised, and revised his showcase as a serio-comic tale of an ordinary guy who, due to sheer love and determination, got himself a girlfriend who was a beauty queen!

Unusual showcase

Most of the other finalists that year opted for standard formats, so Andy's unusual showcase hit it big with the big-name show biz stars who were judging the talent competition—and they gave the top prize to him!

Andy accepted the plum award ecstatically and realized that he could excel as a singing comedian. But he knew that his talents still needed to be further honed, so he did a lot of work in musical theater—"Kenkoy Loves Rosing," "Magsimula Ka," "Magnificat," "Huwag Pumayag sa Dagdag-Bawas," "Etiquette for Mistresses," "Nasaan si Jesus," "Bakhita," "Comedy Tonite," "Beauty and the Best."

He just kept rehearsing and performing, performing and rehearsing—until, one fine day earlier this year, he realized that he was all set for the big push.

All this while, his theater colleagues had been prodding him to go solo, but Andy always held off because he didn't feel that he was ready.

Confidence

But, after he impressed audiences not just in comic roles but in serious portrayals as well, he developed the confidence needed to do a solo show, so the musical-comedy revue, "Andy Bais and a Cast of Thousands" was born.

The "cast of thousands" is made up of two other outstanding musical-comedy talents, Arlene Borja and Christine Carlos. They could topbill their own shows, but have very generously agreed to support Andy in his solo bid.

"Andy Bais and a Cast of Thousands" may be the singing comedian's first solo show, but Andy has already performed with some of the best talents in the land. For starters, he did duets with Lea Salonga years ago on a year-long campus tour.

Next, Andy did a two-man show, "Beauty and the Best," with now

MAKE/p.F2

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Get Additional one (1) hour skating time for all four (4) skaters for FREE!
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ARIVA WATER HEATERS

Make way for singer-comedian Andy Bais

ANDY with VJ Belinda Panelo in the "Beauty and the Best" revue.

(From page F1)

popular MTV VJ Belinda Panelo, where the two antic performers wowed the audience at Bistro RJ with their versatility and energy.

And, in his other musical-theater outings, Andy has impressed stars like Mitch Valdes, Pinky Marquez, Robert Seña, Dulce, Marco Sison and Bimbo Cerrudo with his superior talent and work ethic. They're all rooting for Andy in his first solo outing.

We hope that you will also give Andy a boost by sponsoring performances of his fun-filled show, or by casting him in other stage-TV-film productions, recordings, commercials, etc.

Deserving new talents need help to make it in show biz, and we trust that Andy will be given a chance to show producers, directors and other show biz movers and shakers that he's got what it takes to make it in mainstream entertainment. Call Ariel at 713-9323. *(Photo by Mandy Navasero)*

He just kept rehearsing and performing, performing and rehearsing—until, one fine day earlier this year, he realized that he was all set for the big push

SINGING a duet with Lea Salonga in the late '80s.

AND with Christine Carlos (left) and Arlene Borja, his zany and talented co-stars in his new musical-comedy show.

Zsa Zsa performs with Freestyle on April 28 at Yñares gym

BY MONICA S. GUTIERREZ

"HIGH on Love" is not a repeat of last year's Valentine's concert, "The Love Concert," let's get that straight first. True, this month's concert still has Zsa Zsa Padilla and Freestyle in the line-up, and some of the songs will be the same, but, Zsa Zsa Padilla stresses, "It is not a repeat of the 'Love Concert.'" Eyebrows were raised and whispers abounded when Lani Misalucha, who was included in the February concert, was conspicuously missing from the "High on Love" line-up.

Rumors

Zsa Zsa just laughs off rumors that she worked hard to get Lani out of the project. "Give me a break!" Zsa Zsa sighs. "I even gave Lani my *areglo* (of "Say a Little Prayer") during the last concert."

Just to prove that she and Lani are still on good terms, she narrates how they recently bumped into each other at Mango, where both were shopping for their respective TV wardrobes. Lani was worried that they might buy the same outfits. Zsa Zsa just laughed and said, "*Huwag lang magkasabay*!"

Well, this new concert will indeed be different, marked by the presence of funnyman / crooner Janno Gibs. Jinky Vidal of Freestyle shared that they had not yet talked about the concert, but Jinky said that they will definitely be adding more upbeat tunes. "It has to be current, so maybe we will do Jennifer Lopez and Janet Jackson (songs)," Zsa Zsa added.

The concert will be held on April 28 at the Ynares Gymnasium in Antipolo, which has a seating capacity of 8,000. It is the same gymnasium that Regine Velasquez used for her concert last December.

Svelte

Zsa Zsa was looking svelte. She proudly told us that she had lost a few pounds and an inch around the waist. She shares that she is on a no- (or is it low?) carb diet. Although she loves rice, she avoids it and other carbo-rich foods because, "it goes directly to my hips!" Zsa Zsa was nursing a cough and cold. She excused herself midway to take her medicines. She took about seven tablets, downing them all in one gulp.

She intimated that she takes gingko biloba for memory. "I've had several doses of anesthesia already. What's your excuse?" she playfully teased. Her worst episode of memory loss was on "ASAP," where she forgot the melody of the song she was supposed to sing. Luckily, her partner helped her and she was able to survive that potentially disastrous situation!

Zsa Zsa also talked about the other roles in her life. She shared

PADILLA. Looking svelte.

that it was sometimes difficult to put the roles together. "If I'm a *contrabida* (in a movie or TV series), people will not buy my album!

Onscreen persona

Another is, *asawa ako ni Dolphy*." She lamented that sometimes people cannot distinguish between her onscreen persona and the everyday Zsa Zsa who is partner to Dolphy and whose primary career is singing.

She theorized that this is how some rumors start. She does one thing, and people think, "*Ay, siguro hindi siya masaya*!," and then ugly rumors circulate on the show biz scene.

"I'd love to do more movies!" Zsa Zsa said, but she realizes that bold movies are the in thing nowadays, and they're not for her.

Another issue that Zsa Zsa feels passionately about is record piracy. Because of this, she's happy everytime they are able to award platinum records to artists on "ASAP." "It's so hard to achieve that now because of piracy!" she exclaimed.

Only three years in the business, and yet Freestyle has already worked with stellar performers Zsa Zsa and Spandau Ballet. Who's next? Jinky hoped they could do a show with South Border, produced and conceptualized by Jay Durias.

Wish list

She would also love to perform with Jaya and Ella Mae Saison. When pressed for her wish list of foreign bands, she named Incognito and Brand New Heavies.

Top Suzara said that he hoped Freestyle would follow in the footsteps of Side A. "We hope to be together for as long as we can breathe!" The group's primary concern is that they are all happy about what they are doing. Should one of the members decide to pursue another career, the others will not stand in his or her way.

Another concern is that they need to reach out more to their audience. Their goal is not so much to please the majority, but to be able to touch people's lives.

10 YEARS AGO

Gary V, Regine and Francis M make their bid for long-term stardom

By Kathleen Angeli Torre

WE all have our favorite actors,, singers, rock bands and groups, some of whom are good and lucky enough to receive the most sought-after awards. Those honors declare they're successful, and that they've become brighter stars than the rest. Let's go time-travelling and take a look at what happened in the entertainment world 10 years ago, in April 1991, to recall who were successful then:

Total performer

Gary Valenciano was awarded a double-platinum citation for his WEA album, "Faces of Love," which sold 80,000 copies. Not surprising, since his past albums were also successful. Gary V is one great total performer!

He's popular not just here in the Philippines, but with Filipinos in the States as well. His popularity has increased as years have passed, unlike other performers whom we rarely hear of or see these days.

Another singer, Regine Velasquez, was flying high in 1991, having won the 1990 Asia Pacific Singing Contest in Hong Kong. To top it all, she had numerous successful concerts and a hit show, "Narito Ako," at the Folk Arts Theater.

Approval

Francis Magalona's "Mga Kababayan Ko" earned approval from various award-giving bodies. The rap hit was included in Francis Magalona's platinum debut album, "Yo!" under Octo Arts International.

The song won the Catholic Mass Media Award for Best Musical Composition f 1990, and also won as Best Song of the Year in the annual. tilt sponsored by Guillermo Mendoza Foundation. Francis M. was the only acknowledged local rap artist before Andrew E., Lady Diane and Michael V. came along.

Sheryl Cruz was a rising musical artist in 1991. Her "Sheryl" album included the hit singles "Sabi Ko Na Nga Ba," "Mr. Dream Boy" and "Sagot ng Puso." It was on its way to becoming a platinum LP. Her second album has just been completed and she was busy promoting it. The title of her second album was "Walang Ganyanan." It's sad that she doesn't perform anymore and has opted to settle down in the States.

Debbie Gibson's album, "Anything Is Possible," contained 16 new songs, both fast numbers and ballads. "Anything is Possible" followed her multi-platinum albums, 1987's "Out of the Blue" and 1989's "Electric Youth."

Wonderful night

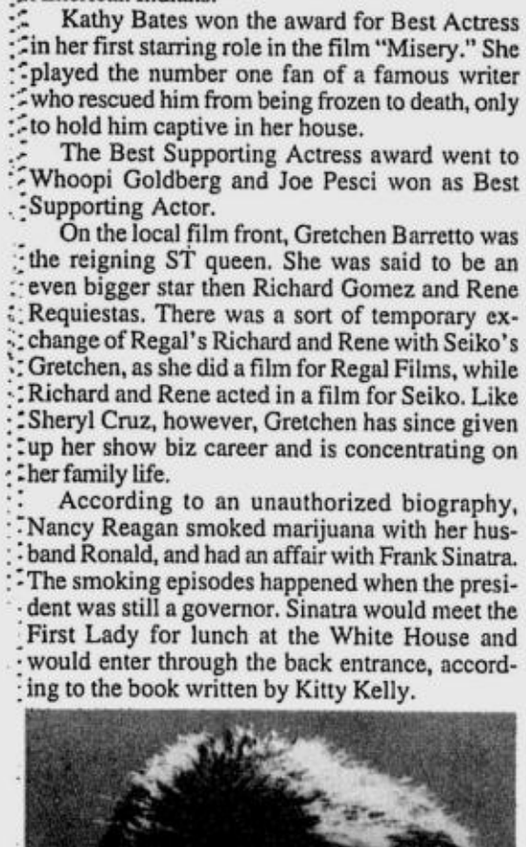
In the Oscars that year, "Dances with Wolves" bagged two awards. It was a wonderful night for Kevin Costner, the film's star, director and producer, who received the awards for best director and best picture. "Dances with Wolves" was about the rights, traditions and problems of the American Indians.

Kathy Bates won the award for Best Actress in her first starring role in the film "Misery." She played the number one fan of a famous writer who rescued him from being frozen to death, only to hold him captive in her house.

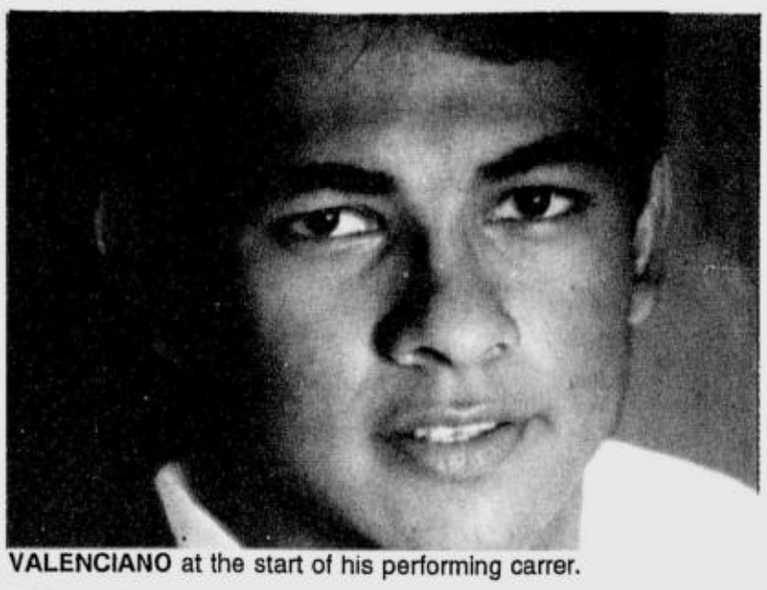
The Best Supporting Actress award went to Whoopi Goldberg and Joe Pesci won as Best Supporting Actor.

On the local film front, Gretchen Barretto was the reigning ST queen. She was said to be an even bigger star then Richard Gomez and Rene Requiestas. There was a sort of temporary exchange of Regal's Richard and Rene with Seiko's Gretchen, as she did a film for Regal Films, while Richard and Rene acted in a film for Seiko. Like Sheryl Cruz, however, Gretchen has since given up her show biz career and is concentrating on her family life.

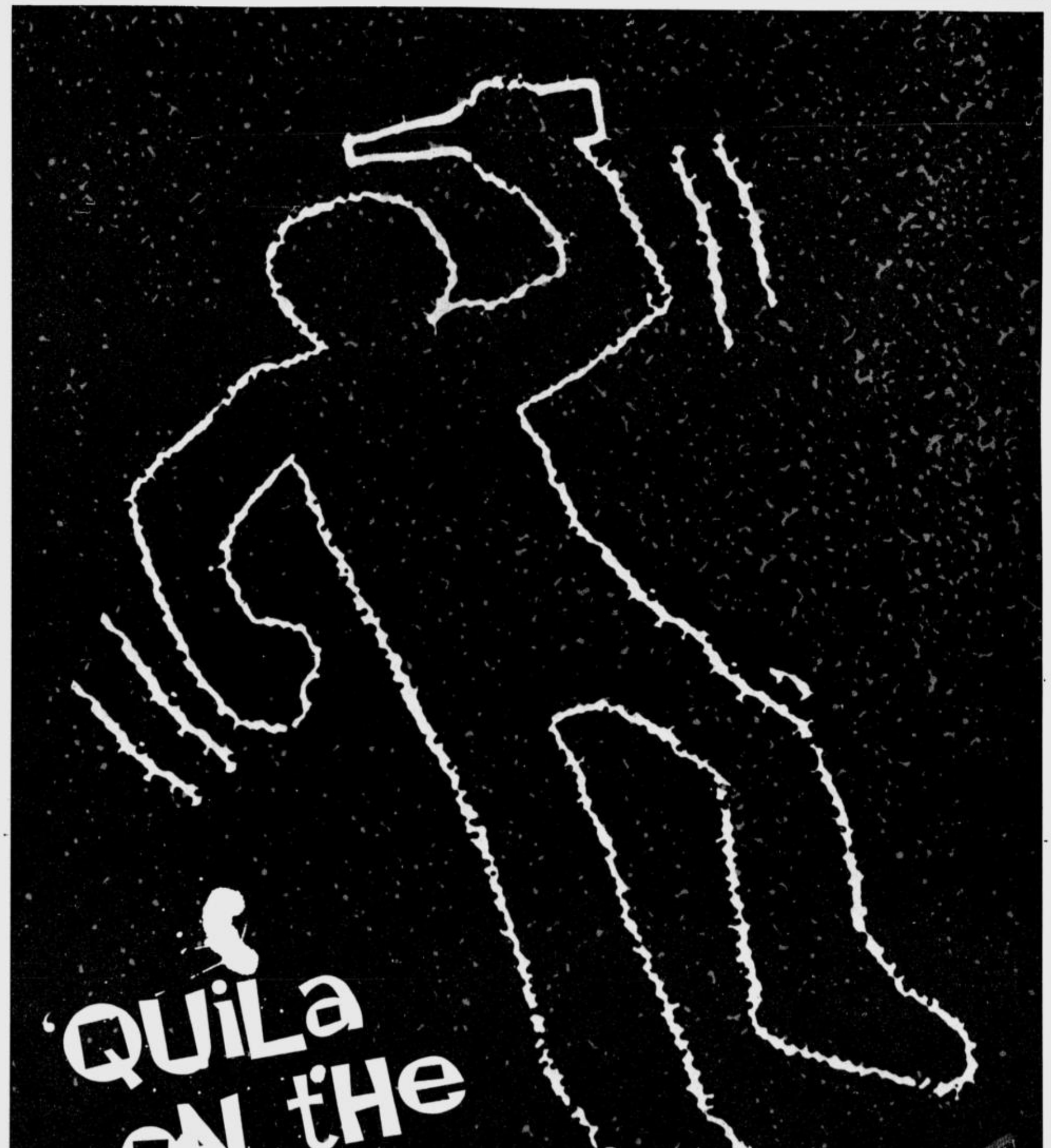
According to an unauthorized biography, Nancy Reagan smoked marijuana with her husband Ronald, and had an affair with Frank Sinatra. The smoking episodes happened when the president was still a governor. Sinatra would meet the First Lady for lunch at the White House and would enter through the back entrance, according to the book written by Kitty Kelly.



MAGALONA. His debut album went platinum.



VALENCIANO at the start of his performing carrer.



'Spy Kids' pulls three-peat at top of US box office

LOS ANGELES—"Spy Kids" and "Along Came a Spider" held the top two spots at the North American box office again over the weekend.

For the third straight weekend, "Spy Kids" was No. 1, taking in $12.5 million. "Along Came a Spider," which debuted in second place last weekend, retained the No. 2 spot with $11.5 million.

Top 20 movies

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and ACNielsen EDI Inc.

1. "Spy Kids," Miramax, $12.5 million, 3,172 locations, $3,941 average, $68.3 million, three weeks.
2. "Along Came a Spider," Paramount, $11.5 million, 2,530 locations, $4,556 average, $33.9 million, two weeks.
3. "Bridget Jones's Diary," Miramax, $10.7 million, 1,611 locations, $6,663 average, $10.7 million, one week.
4. "Joe Dirt," Sony, $8.02 million, 2,638 locations, $3,039 average, $10.7 million, one week.
5. "Blow," New Line, $8 million, 2,249 locations, $3,563 average, $25.9 million, two weeks.
6. "Kingdom Come," Fox Searchlight, $7.6 million, 1,111 locations, $6,807 average, $9.7 million, one week.
7. "Josie and the Pussycats," Universal, $4.6 million, 2,556 locations, $1,785 average, $6.6 million, one week.
8. "Pokemon 3 the Movie," Warner Bros., $2.7 million, 2,675 locations, $1,012 average, $13 million, two weeks.
9. "Enemy at the Gates," Paramount, $2.67 million, 1,694 locations, $1,573 average, $43.2 million, five weeks.
10. "Someone Like You," Fox, $2.603 million, 2,210 locations, $1,178 average, $22.3 million, three weeks.
11. "Heartbreakers," MGM, $2.6 million, 2,477 locations, $1,050 average, $34.4 million, four weeks.
12. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," Sony Pictures Classics, $1.9 million, 1,244 locations, $1,515 average, $120.5 million, 19 weeks.
13. "Exit Wounds," Warner Bros., $1.5 million, 1,552 locations, $962 average, $47.8 million, five weeks.
14. "Traffic," USA Films, $1.4 million, 934 locations, $1,472 average, $119 million, 16 weeks.
15. "The Brothers," Sony, $1.35 million, 868 locations, $1,561 average, $24.7 million, four weeks.
16. "Memento," Newmarket, $926,916, 173 locations, $5,358 average, $3.7 million, five weeks.
17. "Tomcats," Sony, $906,802, 1,711 locations, $530 average, $12.9 million, three weeks.
18. "Amores Perros," Lions Gate, $878,013, 158 locations, $5,557 average, $1.1 million, three weeks.
19. "Just Visiting," Disney, $877,681, 1,590 locations, $552 average, $4 million, two weeks.
20. "The Tailor of Panama," Sony, $875,740, 225 locations, $3,892 average, $4.8 million, three weeks. *AP*

"ALONG Came A Spider" stars Morgan Freeman and Monica Potter.

A CUSTOMER examines bees trapped inside their glass cage.

Weekend market

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

"TO market, to market, to market we go," is one of the earliest rhymes children are taught to sing. In olden times, merchants travelled far and wide in search of open-air weekend markets to sell their wares.

For sometime now, a growing group has established itself in a similar vein, selling products on weekends in a little corner in Magallanes Village in Makati City. They sell fresh farm produce, fish and seafood, dressed and live chickens, fresh and processed meats, herbs and decorative plants, furnishings, clothes and accessories.

Regular customers

The upscale villagers nearby have become regular customers, drawn by the merchandise and the prices made more attractive because the middlemen are often eliminated, since the farmers and growers themselves do the selling.

Zac Zarian, president of the Agri-Aqua Network International (AANI) and the prime mover of this organization, is a well-known authority within the local farming industry and among foreign experts. He led the recent relocation from Magallanes Village to the compound of the Technical Education and Skills Department (TESDA) of the Philippine government—and for the better, it seems.

On their first weekend in the area last January, the customers came in droves even before seven in the morning. There was also more space for the sellers and buyers to move around in.

One of the booths is that of Yvan's Seafood, owned by Ramon and Puyee Averilla. The couple started in SIDCOR, then were invited to join the Magallanes Weekend Market. The couple's two children, Mireille and Yvan, help out during weekends. The Averilla family maintain a 50-50 percent stock of local and foreign fish and steaks.

Popular

Ellie's Roasted Calf is popular with everyone. Victor Yap Amistoso named the business after his wife. He takes pride in stating that they can even roast calves inside hotels. Stuffed inside the calves' stomachs are chickens also for roasting, inside the chickens are eggs—and all these cook together!

Another interesting sight is that of bees trapped inside their glass cage, making honey, of course. Tobee's Apiary is owned by Ramon "Tobee" Tamayo, and the business is Baguio-based.

Maybe that accounts for its honey's better taste—after all, honey's color, taste and quality depend on its source of nectar—and doesn't Baguio and the northern upland area have the most gorgeous flowers and plants?

Ingredients

The best-tasting *buko* with *pandan* comes from OPTA, which stands for the Organic Producers Trade Association. This means naturally grown plants and food, no harmful chemicals and fertilizers, please! There are ingredients for your favorite *"ginataang halo-halo"*—coconut, *gulaman, gabi, langka,* banana and *sago* and *camote.*

Zac counts more than 200 stall holders, and he expects the number to go up, as more and more people make it a habit to go to the weekend market.

ORGANIC Producers Trade Association's Adela Reyes shows off her buko pandan with gulaman.

Night of the Asians at 2000 Oscar awards

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

(Conclusion)

MICHELLE Yeoh and Chow Yun Fat, the stars of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," were only two of the Asians who shone at the Oscars' recent awards night. It was also a great idea to get Yo Yo Ma and Itzhak Perelman to soulfully play the five nominated movie themes.

Proud

When Tan Dun won the Best Score trophy for "Crouching Tiger...," hopes for an Asian sweep of the Oscars were revived. As he received his award, the Asians in the hall looked so proud, yet calm—and standing tall.

Also a proud awardee was producer Dino De Laurentiis, who was given the prestigious Irving Thalberg award.

Ditto for Ernest Lehman, who won an honorary Oscar for writing the scripts of such memorable movies as "Sabrina," "Somebody Up There Likes Me," "From the Terrace," "King and I," "Executive Suite," "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," "The Sound of Music," "Portnoy's Complaint," "West Side Story," North by Northwest" and "Hello, Dolly."

Message

As he delivered his acceptance speech, Lehman's gift for words didn't fail him. He thanked the Academy for "this greatest of honors" and reminded everyone that "a film begins and ends with a screenplay." Did the *auteur* directors in the audience get the message?

"CROUCHING Tiger..." stars Michelle Yeoh and Chow Yun-Fat shone at the Oscars' recent awards night.

Turning even more activist, Lehman echoed the request of other scriptwriters for directors to drop their "A Film By..." credit. He pointed out, "A film belongs not to one artist, but to many. The key to good movies is not auteur filmmaking but creative collaboration."

After that, Julia Roberts' winning the Best Actress plum was anticlimactic, although the actress, radiant in a vintage gown, hogged as much on-camera time as she could without being dragged off the stage.

Blue streak

She talked a blue streak, but ultimately, she really didn't say very much. Next time she accepts an award, Roberts should have a written speech in hand, instead of winging it, as she so breezily did at the Oscars.

Later, she rationalized her rambling speech by explaining, "I'm an extemporaneous kind of person—what comes to my mind at that moment is probably the best!" Many viewers beg to disagree, of course.

Still, she did add to our list of tantalizing show biz trivia by revealing that at first she didn't want to play the title role in "Erin Brockovich," for which she won her first Best Actress Oscar.

Plum part

She then thanked her director, Steven Soderbergh, for convincing her to accept the plum part, and for "making me the best possible actor I could be."

Then she went on to exult, "I love it here! I'm so happy—I love the world!" Enough, already!

A truly memorable moment was Arthur C. Clarke's presentation of the Best Screenplay (Adapted and Original) awards from his home in Sri Lanka. The winners: Steven Gaghan for "Traffic" and Cameron Crowe for "Almost Famous," respectively.

Winners' circle

Then, Steven Soderbergh *finally* won the Best Director trophy for his work on "Traffic." That award had been long in coming because, despite his having been nominated *twice* (for "Traffic" and "Erin Brockovich") in the Best Director category of various film awards, Soderbergh hadn't been ending up in the winners' circle—until the Oscars.—Well, at last!

Soderbergh came up with an elegant and heartfelt acceptance speech: "I want to thank anyone who spends part of his day creating something, and sharing his experiences with us. I think the world would be unlivable without artists. Thank you for inspiring me!"

Major awards

After that, the other major awards (Best Actor, Russell Crowe; Best Film, "Gladiator") were *really* anticlimactic. This, despited the information that "Gladiator" had already earned a whopping $400 M at the tills.

What was clear in the 2000 Oscars was that the Academy had started out being venturesome, sometimes even radically so, but eventually chose to honor old-fashioned and conservative filmmaking as the awards categories increased in importance.

No wonder the this year's Oscars show was later rated as one of the least popular in memory. Part of this was due to the awards ceremony's lackluster production, but the awards' conservative verdicts could have further dampened viewers' enthusiasm for the latest edition of Hollywood's annual film frolic.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM APRIL 21 – 27

(The agency is not responsible for last minute changes in programming.)

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 SOF 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Road to Sydney 10:15 Fashion Watch 10:45 Olympic Primer 11:15 National Network News 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Princess Tenko 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Easy Money 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Eazy Dancing Non-Stop 10:00 Saturday Night Movies 12:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:30 GMA's BEST *Piso Para sa Pasig Concert* 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 SaBayan 7:00 Invisible Man 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Box Office King & Queen* 11:00 Business Class 11:30 Late Night Movie	5:30 H2K 7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat sa Dilim 10:00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Night Lines	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Journey of Allen Strange 7:00 Two of a Kind 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 *Merlin Part 2* 12:00 MTV	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 El Special 10:00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman 12:00 El Coming Attractions
SUN	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Bora ang Susunod na Kabanata 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:00 The Weekend News 11:30 Oh No, It's Johnny	6:00 Uncut 6:30 Ugat 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Business & Leisure 11:00 Sultada 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	5:00 Tarzan 6:00 Savage Dragon 6:30 Janperson 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Sunday Night Specials 11:00 Johnny Walker Powerplay 11:30 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bitoy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Air Force One* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 The 700 Club	5:30 Hollywood Squares 6:00 Compañero y Compañera 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Just Kidding 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Funny Bone* 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 In His Steps 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 The Nanny 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 Talk Soup 6:30 CBS Evening Newsd 7:00 60 Minutes 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 11:00 Celebrity Profile 12:00 Talk Soup
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Kaya n Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:00 Judy Ann Drama Special 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Correspondents 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Pilipino Box-Office 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Macron 1 8:00 The Big Night 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Arlyn dela Cruz on Special Assignment 11:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters *Don Pepe* 9:30 Kiss Muna 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Michael Hayes 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Honasan Reports	7:00 Blow By Blow 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 10:30 Super Bouts 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Amerika Atbp.	6:00 Lassie 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 Making the Band 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Nightman 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 El Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman
TUE	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Oka Tokat 8:30 Regal Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:30 Cartoon Hour 7:00 Thief Takers 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Action Theater 9:00 That '70s Show 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Kontak 5 11:30 F/X The Series 12:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Jay Sonza's Tapatan 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Saklolo Abogado 7:00 DMZ TV 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Now Showing 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Patsoat Damdaming Bayan	6:00 MTV Most Wanted 7:00 Three Stooges 7:30 Baywatch 8:30 Angel 9:30 Mad About You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Nightman 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 El Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman
WED	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:00 Kabalikat 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 HBO Boxing 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Tapatan Walang Atrasan 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Nature Trip 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Planet X 7:30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8:00 Chicago Sons 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Phils.' Most Wanted 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:00 Larawan 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo'y Langit	5:00 PBA 10:00 Subic Bay 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	7:00 Fantasy Island 8:00 Survivor 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 The Explorer 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 El Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman
THU	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Home Along da Riles 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Assignment 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Olympic Program 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Guinness World Records 7:30 By Request 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:30 New York Undercover Year 2 12:00 The Big News	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 1 For 3 8:30 Viva Sinerama *Bakit Pa?* 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA Game of the Week 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Thursday Nights at the Movies 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 MTV Non-Stop Hits 6:30 Be Seen @ MTV 7:00 Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 *Spice Girls/Boyzone* 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Travel Time	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 El Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman
FRI	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Digimon 8:00 Young Hercules 8:30 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Julia 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo Pilipino 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Pulso ng Masa 10:15 National Network News 11:00 The Scene 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sliders 8:00 Touched By an Angel 9:00 Working 9:30 Normal Ohio 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pokemon 8:00 Bubble Gang 9:30 GMA Love Stories 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 One Cubed	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Dharma and Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *This is the Moment 2 (Musical)*	5:00 PBA 10:00 Kabayo, Karera, Karerista 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:30 Monster By Mistake 7:00 Batman 7:30 Survivor 8:30 West Wing 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Cliffline 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 El Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman

A blessed birthday

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

LAST week, Easter Sunday, was the rebirth of our risen Lord.

As in past years, I spent the days preceding it in deep contemplation. And surprisingly, one of the things that helped me reflect this year was a simple birthday party recently hosted for Gene Palomo or Bo.

But before I give you the reason why that celebration triggered my soul-searching, I must tell you about his past birthdays—and how my life was in those days:

It was the mid-'80s and I was on top of the world. At the time, I lived in a huge, multi-level mansion in Loyola Heights with enough rooms to accommodate several barangays!

I had a big garage that housed all kinds of cars, an Olympic-size swimming pool, a teahouse, a sauna, a beautifully manicured garden, a bar, several dining and living rooms, a conference room—!

Intercom

In fact, the house was so big that many times I did not even know which part of the house my kids were in—or if they were there at all. I could not call anyone without using the intercom unless I wanted to risk getting laryngitis.

As you can imagine, whenever I had guests (who included President Ramos and Renato De Villa), I loved touring them around its premises. They delighted at its expanse and the expensive things in it.

The funny thing was, I never really got to visit most parts of the house. Everyday, I would have breakfast in one of the dining rooms and just look across the swimming pool that no one swam in. The garden's only friend was its caretaker.

Speaking of the garden, this was the area of the house where we usually held Bo's grand parties. We partied at the drop of a hat. There were times when we would wake up after an all-night celebration and not recall what the party was for in the first place!

Gifts

And these were no ordinary parties. I was the kind of person who'd rain my friends and family with money, jewelry and gifts. We would host games (especially the *sisid-regalo*) with fabulous prizes.

During Christmas Day, gift-giving usually lasted from 8 in the morning up to dinner time, with everyone dropping by for their presents.

Back to Bo's birthdays: All his guests had to go home drunk —that was the rule. And no one could say "No," unless he wanted to get dunked in the pool! The gifts guests brought were fantastic—a horse, a car, etc.!

Truly, those were extravagant and crazy times.

So when Bo celebrated his last birthday, I couldn't help but compare it to the parties of yesteryears.

If before his birthday was celebrated in our "palace," this time, the bash was held at Villa Virginia in Antipolo, a simple resort owned by Mar and Edith Bacani. If in the past his parties had lots of socializing, and buzzing about nothing among guests, this one started with praise songs and hymns for the Lord led by Hope For The World's minister Flibert Paje.

Smile

The most glaring difference was this: Gene wore a smile throughout the celebration. In contrast, he rarely smiled during his birthdays at Loyola Heights.

This time, however, the smile never left his face. Especially during the game (hosted by master of ceremonies Bro. Archie) when the guests started "roasting" him.

There was a quiet happiness that obviously stemmed from his heart and shone through his eyes. He didn't have to say a word—it was just there! I had to look at him many times and ask myself, "Is this the same Bo whose temper would flare at the slightest provocation just a few years back?" I couldn't believe it.

But the most touching part was when the guests offered their gifts to Bo. Apparently, all of them meant something. A lady told Bo that she decided to give him a pamphlet so that everytime Bo would read it, he would be reminded of how he had changed a lot of people by his testimonies about his life.

"Because you are always on the go spreading the Word of God, these two verses are for you to protect and uplift you," she said. That's when I realized how rich Bo is because of the number of lives he has touched.

Watch

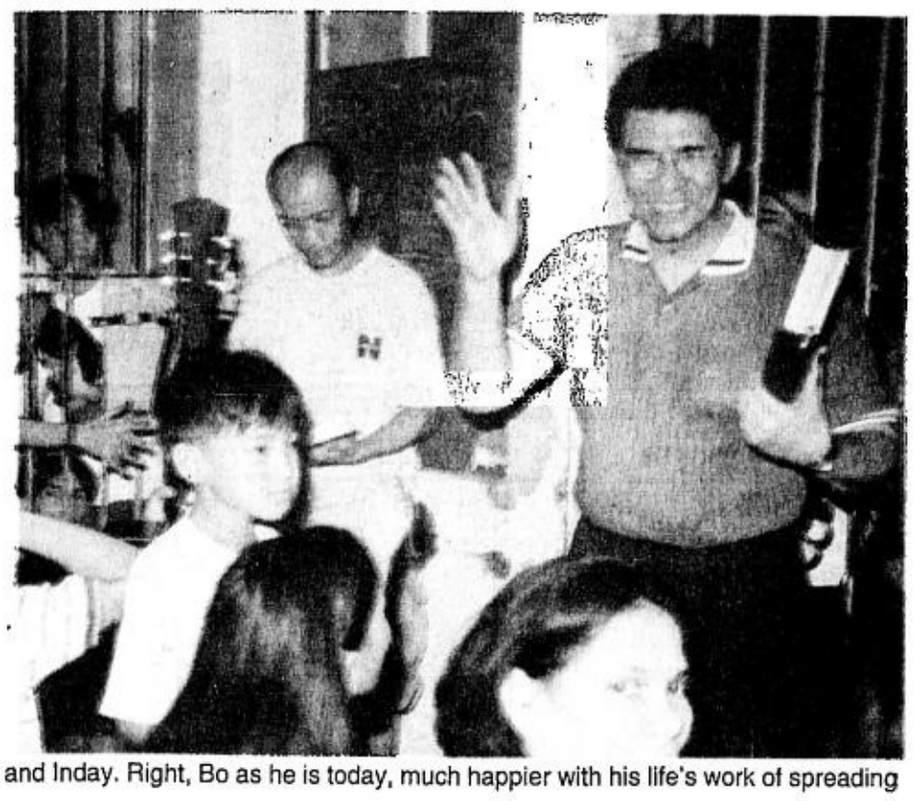
Taking off his watch, Pastor Flibert presented it to Bo, saying it was passed on to him by another pastor. "Everytime I look at this watch, I am reminded of my mission. Now, I pass this on to you," Pastor Flibert said simply. A priceless gift, indeed!

There were times, in my desire to understand the negative events in my life, when I would ask why all this had to happen. My friend Fanny Serrano's explanation, "Perhaps God wants to teach you to appreciate the simplicity of life."

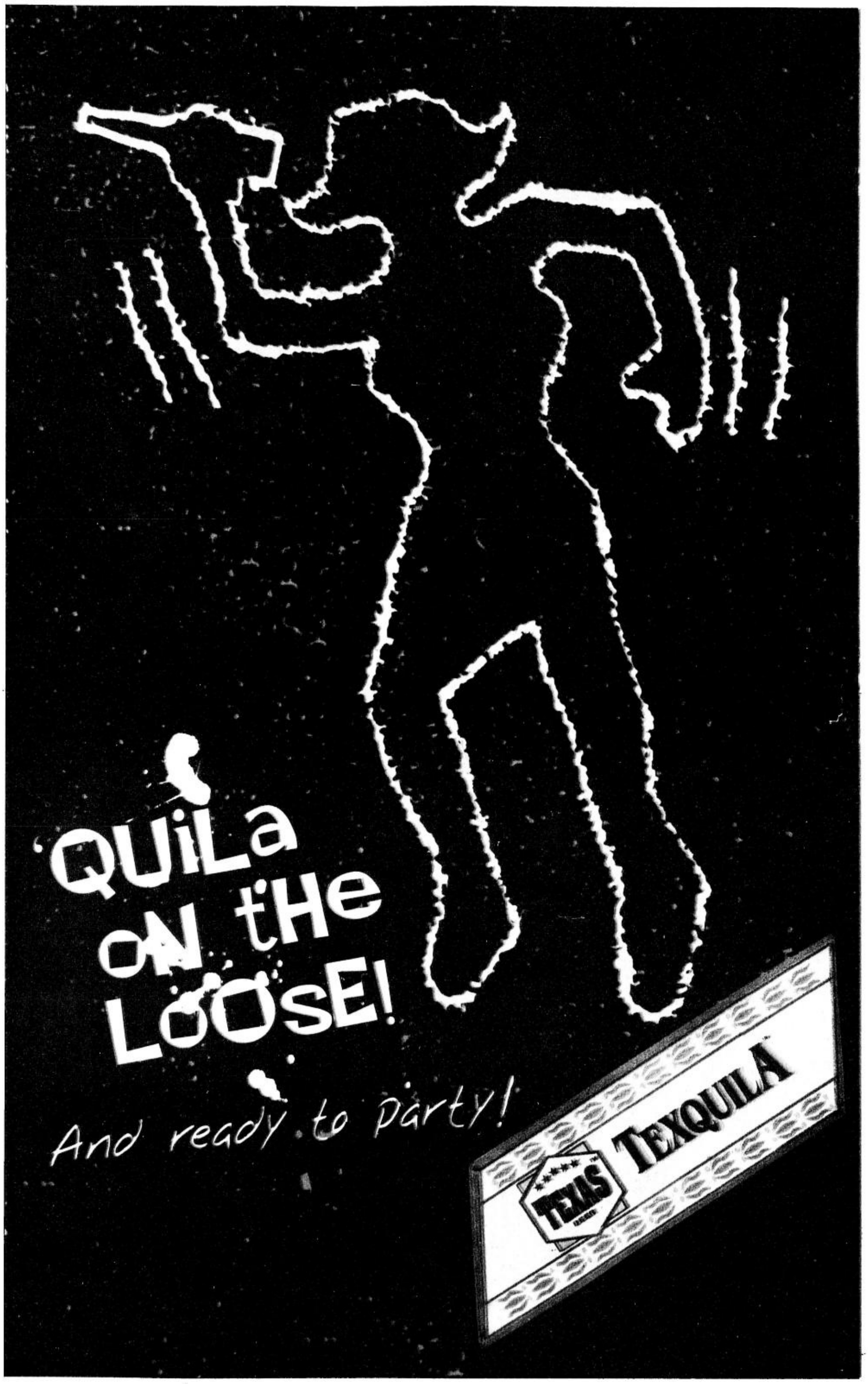
I know this to be true. Before, when the blessings were overflowing, I hardly took the time to thank Him. Now, not a day goes by that I do not thank Him with all my heart!

I am also reminded that God moves in mysterious ways. Everything that happens has a reason, always revealed in *His* time. You just have to trust that, as your Father, He knows what's best for you and will always carry you.

Easter Sunday marks the rebirth of our Risen Lord.Out of His goodness and great love for all of us, if we want to, it could also be ours, too!



BEFORE AND AFTER. Left, a bearded Bo celebrating with then Pres. Fidel Ramos and Inday. Right, Bo as he is today, much happier with his life's work of spreading the word of God.



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

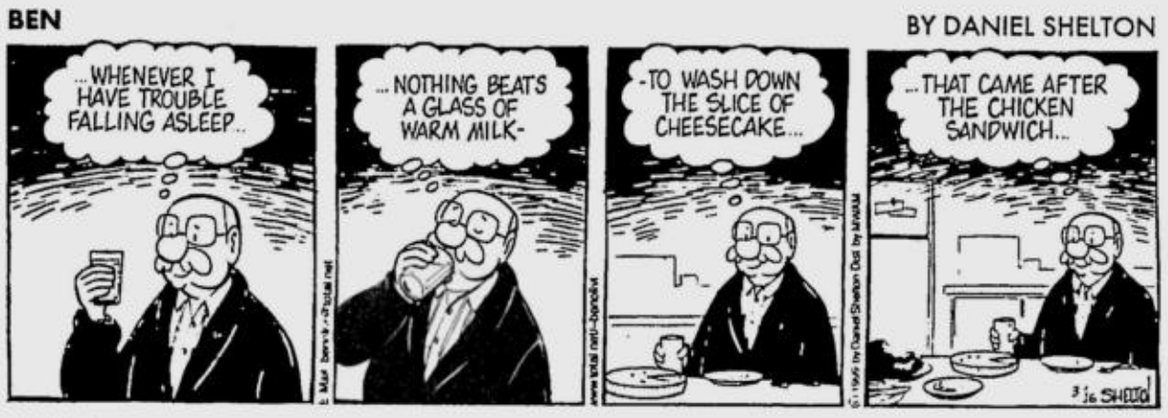
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

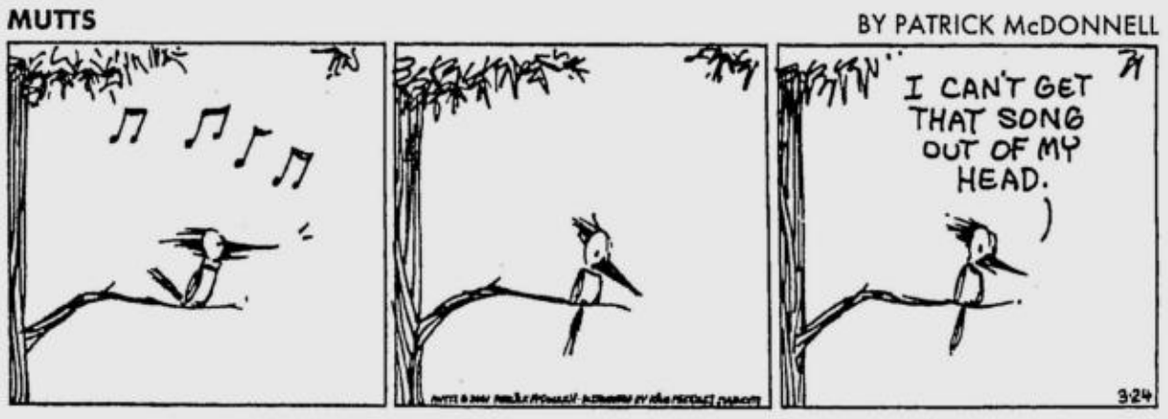
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Queen Elizabeth II, Charles Grodin, Anthony Quinn, Patti LuPone, Andie MacDowell, John Mortimer, Tony Danza

Happy Birthday: Take your time. Rome wasn't built in a day. You need to get your priorities straight and focus on what means the most. If you plan your moves strategically, you can make the biggest impact. If you are particular, patient and positive in all that you do, you will achieve your goals. Your numbers: 10, 19, 23, 34, 38, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't jump to conclusions before getting all the facts. You should be extremely careful while operating equipment. Emotional deception is likely. Be direct in your conversations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll have trouble dealing with relatives. Don't bang your head against a wall. Let them know how you feel and carry on. You can make a difference if you make changes at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your personal life will stabilize. You can make amends by suggesting special plans for two. It's time to be romantic and let your mate know how much you care.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A friend will be upset if you are too busy to do things with him. Be diplomatic; he may think that you like him more than you really do. Let him down gently, but don't expect him to stick around.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will exhaust yourself if you've taken on too much. Ask for help or an extension on your deadlines. Personal matters may crop up and delay matters even further. Gauge yourself carefully.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Talk to those in established positions. Assistance may be in order. Take a long look at yourself and analyze what you would like to improve upon. This is the time for change.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You are likely to be the topic of conversation if you've been too open about your personal life. Don't give in to treats. You should probably start looking for a new position.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Competitive sports will help you release all that pent-up energy. You should consider spending a romantic evening with the one you love. You may be in the doghouse if you don't.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't overspend on home renovation or redecorating. You need to scrimp and save wherever you can. If you use your imagination, the outcome will look like a million bucks.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You need a change. Join groups that will spark some enthusiasm. Don't be in a hurry to blame your loved ones for things that may not be their fault. Dig deep and find out all the facts.

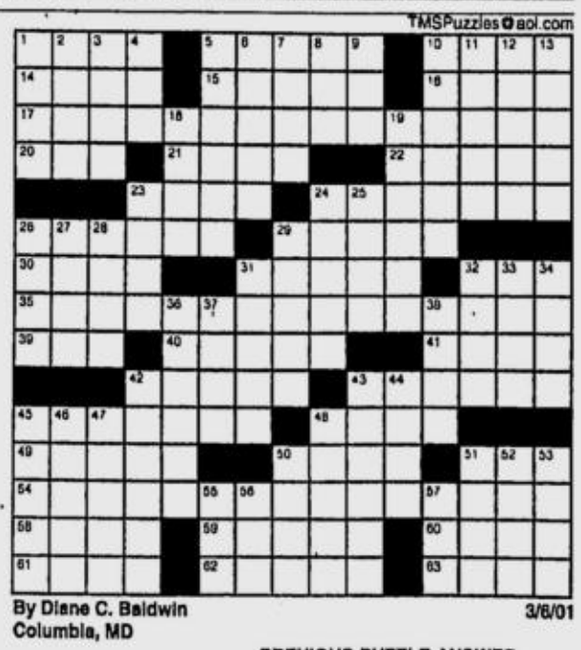
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be secretive about intentions or ideas that could bring you extra cash. You must look into all your options before you proceed. Get promises in writing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep working on your project. You will have to cover all the bases if you want this concept to fly. Remember that most people won't have your vision.

Birthday Baby: You have a twinkle in your eye and a carefree attitude that will attract a lot of attention throughout life. You are willing to try anything that promises to be a thrill and will never forget to include the people you love in your plans.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD
3/6/01

ACROSS
1 Festive event
5 Converge
10 __-noire (bugbear)
14 Egyptian goddess
15 Dunce
16 In any way
17 NETS
20 Keg feature
21 Feels remorse
22 Wash off
23 __ the line (obeyed)
24 Sounded piggish
26 Quantity
29 Locations
30 Burn a bit
31 Bermuda border
32 Celebration night
35 NETS
39 Gore and D'Amato
40 Stage
41 Smoke curl
42 Less cluttered
43 Talkative
45 Loser
48 Satiate
49 Uses the postal system
50 Hog wild?
51 Query word
54 NETS
58 Cleveland's lake
59 "A Lesson from __," Fugard play
60 Settlement
61 "Atlas Shrugged" author
62 Wedding present
63 Aware of

DOWN
1 Present
2 Sikkim's continent
3 Speech impediment
4 Hardwood tree
5 Courtly dance
6 Sidled
7 Barbecue staple
8 Sticky stuff
9 Zeta follower
10 Starts off
11 Occurrence
12 Heckle
13 Goofed up
18 Press
19 Class-cutter
23 Opportunity to play
24 Unseasoned
25 Bring up
26 On the waves
27 Repast
28 Galley propellers
29 Broadway figure
31 Frequently
32 Way out
33 British undershirt
34 Catch sight of
36 Scanty
37 Mystique
38 Absent
42 Shot like a lock
43 Posh

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	D	A	M	S		K	A	P	P	A		D	A	B
M	A	N	I	A		A	I	R	E	D		A	G	E
I	R	I	S	M	U	R	D	O	C	H		I	R	A
			N	O	R	M	A		T	E	R	S	E	R
M	O	R	A	V	I	A		F	O	R	A	Y	E	D
A	R	O	M	A	S		K	A	R	E	E	M		
R	I	S	E	R		V	I	T	A	S		I	C	C
N	E	E	D		N	E	W	E	L		C	L	I	O
E	L	K		R	I	G	I	D		S	A	L	V	E
		E	L	E	N	A	S		P	U	R	E	E	D
C	A	N	A	P	E	S		D	E	S	E	R	T	S
H	U	N	G	U	P		T	A	R	A	S			
A	R	E		L	I	L	Y	M	U	N	S	T	E	R
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F	L	Y		E	S	T	E	S		A	R	O	S	E

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ANSWER ON MONDAY

44 Rhino's weapon
45 Fossil resin
46 __ Ingalls Wilder
47 Nonviolent protest
48 More demure
50 Clout
51 Architect of Saint Paul's Cathedral
52 Warm up
53 European capital
55 Far out!
56 Mr. Ziegfeld
57 Fuss

More directors resign from DGPI

WE HEAR that some more filmmakers have decided to resign from the Directors Guild of the Philippines, among them ace megman Chito Roño.

He and a few others like Olivia Lamasan and Rory Quintos join Marilour Diaz-Abaya and Laurice Guillen, who opted to leave the guild earlier. They disagreed with certain attitudes and actuations of the DGPI in relation to the ongoing controversy over "Live Show," the MTRCB, freedom of expression, filmmakers' responsibility to the public, etc.

Even if the directors' guild chooses to poohpooh these resignations, it can't deny the fact that Abaya, Guillen, Roño, Lamasan and Quintos are among the best and most successful filmmakers in the country, so the public is taking their series of resignations as a significant development.

We hope that the time will come when the smoke clears, tempers ebb, and these disagreements can be discussed with equanimity and mutual respect, so that the guild can once again act as one in achieving positive goals for the movie industry. However, this can only happen after listening to and considering the points of view of individual members.

Of course, if this isn't possible, contending groups or individuals will just have to agree to disagree. But no more virulent outbursts, please.

Feedback

From Erwin Jose A. Baldonado of Taytay, Rizal: "I am a regular reader of Viewfinder, especially your Boob-tube Booboos. I just wish I had the time to catch those slips 'live' on TV.

"I have difficulty distinguishing between plot-driven and character-driven films because, as the movie runs and the characters go through the developments, the whole thing seems character-driven to me. Please explain."

NUT: Basically, plot-driven movies are strong on story development, while in character-driven films, events are not as important as the changes that the protagonist experiences in his character.

Your assertion that everything is character-driven is correct in the sense that it is a person's make-up that prompts his choices in life and thus sometimes dictates what happens to him. But there are extraneous forces that are not within his control that also come to bear on his life, which is why we say that the assertion is only partially true.

The danger with plot-driven movies is their tendency to fall into cliches, since plots aren't all that varied. Characters are potentially richer and more surprising, because every person is different from everybody else.

However, it's more difficult to do a character-driven movie story because it's more subjective, subtle and impressionistic, and you don't have the "skeleton" of a strong plot to hang onto. It can easily fall apart as a result, and viewers can lose interest because there are no major plot points to serve as landmarks on the movie's "journey" to its resolution.

On the other hand, a character-driven movie story that succeeds has a more telling effect on viewers because it's richer and more insightful. On the *other* hand, we have to remind ourselves that the Filipino audience likes a good, strong, eventful movie story. So, take it from there.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'Mitch-ing de Abanse'

Mitch Valdes is starring in the political satire, "Mitch-ing de Abanse" on April 27 and 28 at the Music Museum. Why "Mitch-ing de Abanse"? The popular singer, comedienne and stand-up pundit shares these stream-of-consciousness thoughts on her latest showcase:

"Why 'Mitch-ing de Abanse'? In time for the elections, of course – but with no political agenda. Tired of politics. Want peace! Let's get on with our lives! But I have a platform, of course. I want good governance. I live in San Juan, for heaven's sake. But I also want to push for a good life. It's about time – we deserve it.

"What makes a Pinoy? The highs and lows. But I'm always optimistic. We have a good track record for doing what's right. Even if sometimes it's photo-finish.

"Why do women undergo slicing and vacuuming of flesh to look good? We have mature women trying to look like nymphets, and nymphets trying to look like Sophia Loren. Have you watched TV lately? Everyone has the same breasts. Huge. *Dati, kami lang ni* Rachel Alejandro and Armida. Now, we're petite! At the end of a show, the credits should go: Hair and make-up by Fanny Serrano, breasts by Vicky Belo.

"As a campaign manager in the show, I create songs and imaging for candidates.

"My tribute to singers and celebrities? I will impersonate them!

"The show will have many, many more Pinoyisms. I am a diehard Pinay with an international soul reflected in my choice of music. We have excellent session artists to have fun with.

"The opinions expressed may not necessarily be those of the producers. They're based on my experiences. My life is – a Live Show!"

VALDES. Diehard Pinay with an international soul.

The rich and the brilliant play to win in 'Antitrust'

IN THE most revolutionary, globally impacting and cut-throat business the world has yet encountered—the high-speed, high-stakes computer industry—the powerful play to win.

Dark heart

Welcome to the dark heart of the digital age, to a place where millionaires are made in nanoseconds, where fortunes are won and lost in just a single line of code, and where private wars are being waged right now to decide who will control the future.

"Antitrust" is a relentless suspense thriller that enters this hidden world where the rich and the brilliant collide, where a handful of bright, driven young men and women have the means to make or break the technology that will dominate the global economy.

Here, in an atmosphere of secrecy, fierce competition and accusations of monopoly, the real fear for a rising young programmer caught up in the frenzy isn't just antitrust actions but whether, when things turn dangerous, anybody can be trusted at all.

Milo (Ryan Phillippe) has the stuff it takes to make it to the top of the computer world. He's a master of the digital domain who's about to do what every young computer genius wants most: launch a high-tech start-up.

It's not just any start-up, either. Milo's garage-based company is devoted to the technology major corporations across the globe are currently chasing: the technology of digital convergence, or the linking of all forms of digital communications such as telephone, television, computers and wireless from one super-powerful feed.

Technology

Milo wants to be a part of history, to build the technology that will change how people live a few years from now.

But just as Milo headed for a breakthrough, he gets an offer he can't refuse. It comes from the renowned Gary Winston (Tim Robbins), head of the multi-billion dollar software corporation N.U.R.V (which stands for "Never Underestimate Radical Vision"), and Milo's professional hero.

The supremely rich and powerful Winston wants to recruit Milo for his top-echelon digital convergence team—and despite having to leave behind his anti-corporate best friend and business partner, Teddy, Milo feels he has no choice. The money, the resources, the opportunity Winston offers can't be had anywhere else.

Even more exciting, Winston has taken a personal interest in Milo and it seems like he will finally get the chance to truly make his mark.

So Milo and his artsy girlfriend Alice (Claire Forlani) head off for the land of the super-achievers, where fast thinking can make very fast money. Milo is quickly introduced to high-security, pressure-cooker atmosphere of NURV.

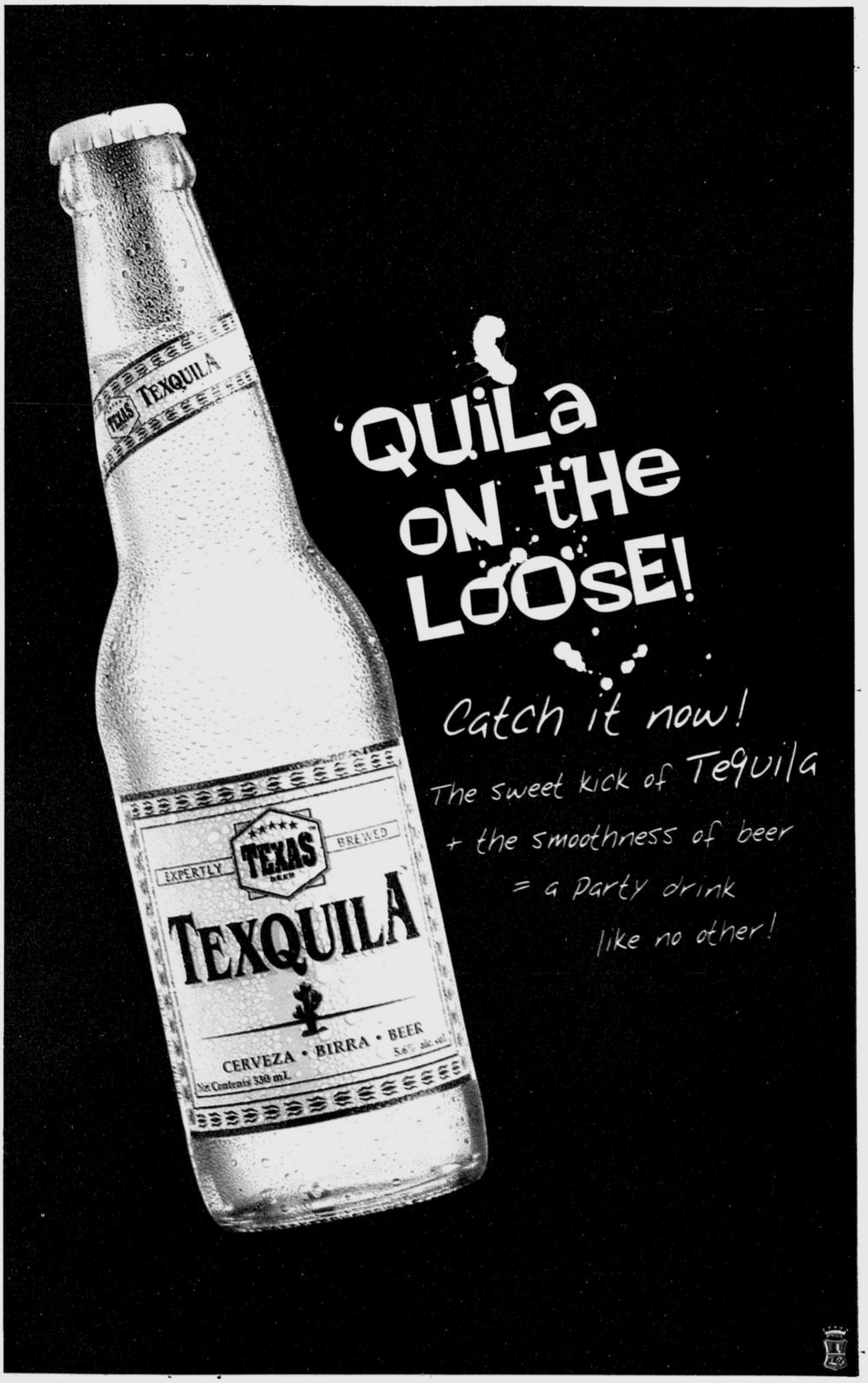
Race

Assigned a talented, and intellectually tempting, colleague named Lisa (Rachael Leigh Cook) to assist him, Milo gets intensely caught up in the race to achieve Winston's vision.

Winston inspires Milo to new levels of brilliance by refusing to let any problem go unsolved for long. But as new developments are brought to Milo with astonishing speed and accuracy, he begins to doubt their source.

The tragedy strikes at Milo's personal life in the form of a vicious crime, and his suspicion turn to terror. Is Milo a merely a pawn in Winston's games of surveillance and intimidation? Is Winston willing to go to any extreme to win?

Now it is Milo whose survival is at stake, unless he can outwit the very heart of NURV, a corporate behemoth whose power, greed and paranoia know no bounds.



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Nokia 5110i	1,500	FREE	FREE
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Siemens A36	FREE	FREE	FREE

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Nokia 8250	15,000	13,000	11,000	9,000
Siemens S40	13,000	11,000	9,000	7,000
Nokia 3310	3,200	1,200	FREE	FREE
Nokia 5110i	1,500	FREE	FREE	FREE
Philips Azalis	700	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens A36	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE

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Promo period: 02 February to 30 April 2001

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0051, Series of 2001. Approved by DTI-NCR.

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Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2001 ✦ 16 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 27

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- 'Rugrats in Paris' Page 4
- Dognapped! Page 8
- Gabriela Page 10
- Ang Mahiwagang Silid Page 12
- The Lunch Box Page 15

The Story Weavers

Three girls from Zamboanga de1 Sur, Davao Oriental and Metro Manila weave a tapestry of stories in honor of Mother Earth

(Above) SCI-FI BUFF. Makati City's Patricia Mae Cielo wrote her own prize-winning environmental sci-fi story after reading lots of books by Madeleine L'Engle.
(Right) PRIZE-WINNING PEARL. Young author Jenny Pearl Fadul from Davao Oriental wades through a Samal shoreline.
(Below) SHE LIKES LEGENDS. Nine-year-old Ritchel Modal frolics in the grass along the beach near her hometown in Zamboanga del Sur.

Photos by MANDY NAVASERO

THEIR names are Ritchel, Jenny Pearl and Patricia. They are probably just like any ordinary grade-school kids out there. But what sets them apart from the rest are the stories they have written about the world we live in. Their stories have won this year's "RCBC Kuwentong Kalikasan Katha ng Kabataan." Three girls. Three provinces. Three cautionary tales of truth.

The Palinta Swamp

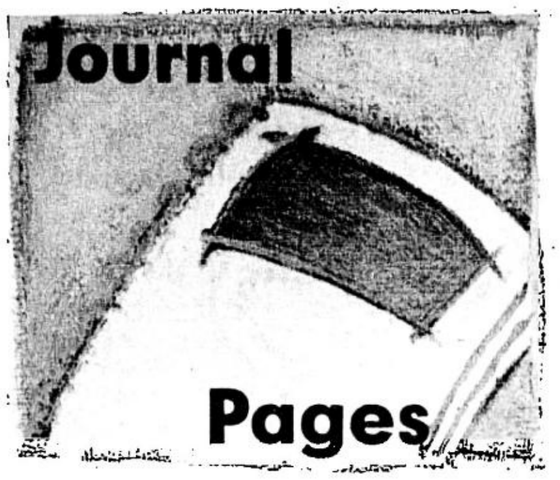
Nine-year-old Ritchel A. Modal studies at the Palinta Elementary School way down south in Palinta, Kabasalan, Zamboanga del Sur. Her story, "Ang Latian ng Palinta: Isang Alamat" is a retelling of the legend of a stream found in her hometown.

A rich and greedy man in Palinta decided to mine part of Palinta and have a lot of trees cut down for his business. After ignoring repeated pleas from fairies, whose homes were being destroyed, the rich man disappeared after a day of torrential rains. Where his big house once stood, a swamp now sits.

What Mando knows

Jenny Pearl L. Fadul, 12, is a student at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy in Mati, Davao Oriental. Her story, "Malayo Pa ang Umaga" tells of a couple driven by poverty to sell their small piece of land to an industrial company. It is their young son who has enough sense to realize the decision could be wrong. Young Mando knows their home would turn into a smog-filled, dirty place.

The Story/p.14



Graduation

BY DIYOSA MERCADO
GRADE 6, JESU-MARIAE SCHOOL
PARAÑAQUE CITY

OUR graduation had passed and many graduates are ready for the coming new life. There will be those who will go to grade school, some to high school, others to college. Some others will start their first jobs. They are excited and so are their parents.

I had mixed feelings about my graduation. On March 23, my classmates and I graduated from grade school. I don't know what to expect. I feel both sad and happy. I feel sad because I will not be with my friends anymore and I'm happy because I am moving forward.

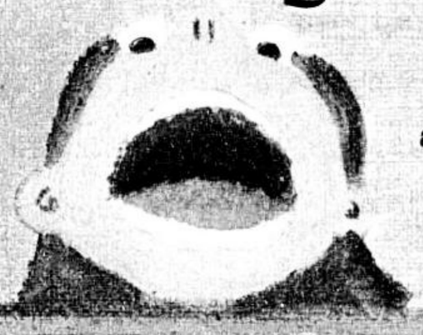
I will always remember my time with my friends, especially our spiritual retreat in Tagaytay City. That was one of the best experiences I ever had in my whole life. I will never forget our retreat masters who were all so funny and made us very happy.

My classmates, friends, teachers and our class adviser, Ms Maritess Dimaranan, completed my grade school life. Ms Dimaranan and Sir Laguilles are two favorite teachers I will never forget. I am so thankful I had teachers like them. Sir Laguilles told us to be brave and confident. I used to be very shy, especially when I had to declame. I am not anymore, and I am ready to stand on the stage and do my best.

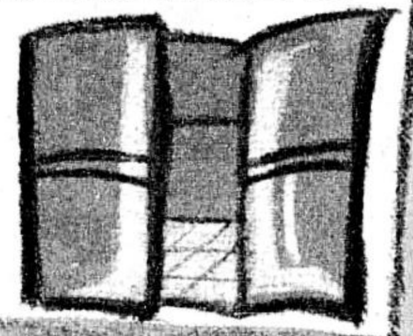
Indeed, happiness and sadness, and some other mixed feelings come with graduation. Just like in growing up.

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers



You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



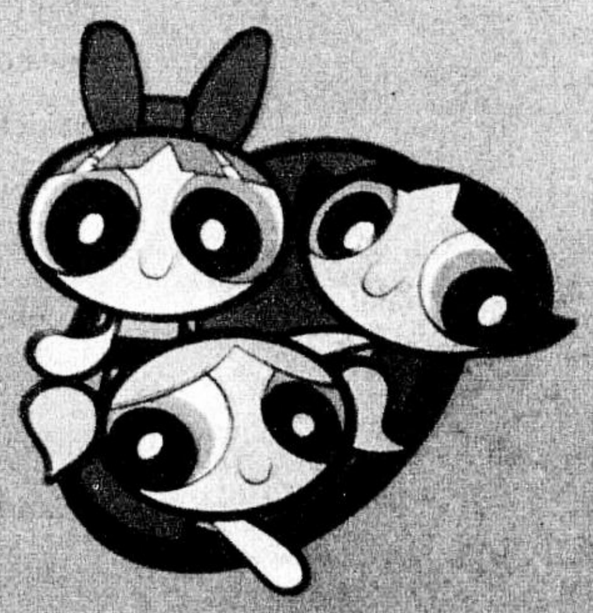
I love the Powerpuff Girls!

DEAR Editor

I think "Powerpuff Girls" is the best superhero cartoon I've ever seen in the whole wide world. I like them because of Bubble's tiny voice, their kicks, punches and special powers. Isn't it amazing that the Powerpuff Girls became superheroes because of a lab accident by Professor Utonium? I think this show was made for all superhero fans and people who love cartoon shows.—**STEPHANIE ANNE B. GAN**, 9, Quezon City

Dear Stephanie,

*Thanks for your letter! And happy birthday 10th on the 7th!—**Editor***



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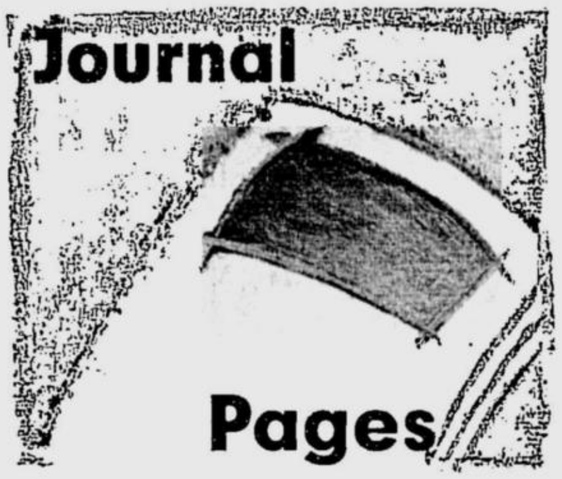

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NEW TASTE!

Goya

KNICK KNACKS

"The No.1 For My No.1's"

'Rugrats in Paris–The Movie'

MOVIE REVIEW BY MARGAUX ORTIZ

FINALLY! The long wait for our favorite Nickelodeon babies has come to an end. Tommy, Chuckie and the rest of the Rugrats embark on another escapade as they conquer the most romantic city in the world: Paris!

Inspired by Grandpa Pickles' recent wedding and Chuckie's wish to find a new mom, Chuckie's dad Chas starts dating again. He decides that it's about time that his 2-year-old son feels a mother's love once more.

One night, Tommy's dad Stu Pickles gets a call from abroad summoning him to faraway Reptarland in Paris. It turns out that Reptarland's big boss Mademoiselle Coco Labouche isn't very happy with Mr. Pickles' latest Reptar invention. The next morning, Tommy, Chuckie, Angelica, Lil, Phil, Baby Dil and the whole gang are on a plane to the City of Lights!

The fun rides and the adorable mascots of Paris' amazing new amusement park do not take away Chuckie's loneliness. He wants a new mommy so badly that when he hears the beautiful story of Reptarland's "princess," he immediately falls in love with her. Chuckie employs the help of the Rugrats in convincing the princess to be his new mom.

Meanwhile, Coco Labouche is cooking up an evil scheme. The president of all the Reptarland amusement parks in the world is choosing a successor, and Miss Labouche wants to impress him.

She plans to trap Chuckie's dad into marrying her so she could pretend to be a loving wife and mother. But the babies soon smell something fishy...will they keep the evil Miss Labouche from succeeding in time?

The Rugrats go oui oui!

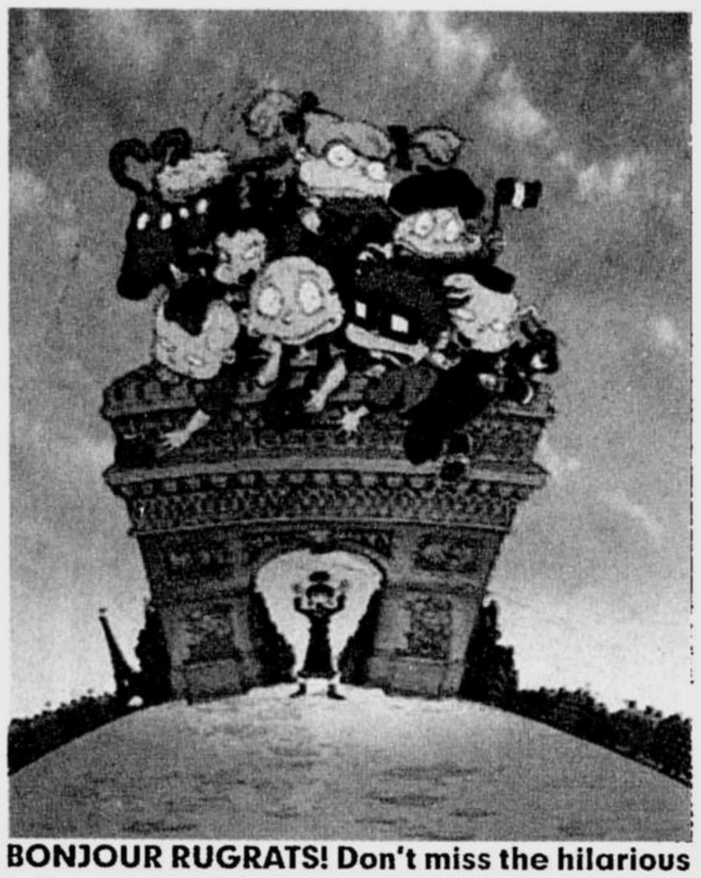
The sequel to "The Rugrats Movie" promises to be equally or even a lot more fun than its predecessor. Here, the world's most famous babies travel to a foreign land, discovering new things while learning and keeping in mind the importance of the old.

While Tommy dealt with the emotional turmoil of having a new baby brother in the first Rugrats film, the second revolves around Chuckie and his desire to have a mom like all his friends. One cannot help but feel his pain as he watches Tommy and Baby Dil, Lil and Phil, and even obnoxious Angelica slow dancing with their mommies on the dance floor. There's even this scene wherein Chuckie longingly looks out of the airplane window and sees clouds shaped like him with his mommy.

Our well-loved babies take on Paris with lessons on courage, loyalty, trust and true love in mind. In "Rugrats in Paris–The Movie," hear official Rugrat scaredy-cat Chuckie speak his first word as he bravely tries to stop Coco from marrying his dad.

"Rugrats in Paris–The Movie" proves that our babies have successfully set out on yet another fun-filled adventure. I'm sure we all can't wait for the third Rugrats film, with the gang facing new challenges and meeting new people—faster than you can say oui, oui!

"Rugrats in Paris–The Movie" is now showing in Metro Manila theaters.



BONJOUR RUGRATS! Don't miss the hilarious adventures of these cuties as they take Paris by storm.

Join the club

Membership Fee: P 300
Renewal Fee: P 230
Send us a money order or a check payable to Probe Productions, Inc. at P.O. Box 2123-1161 Central Post Office, Q.C.

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5 and Up Club holds summer art workshops

Are you 7-12 years old and are looking for something fun and creative to do this summer?

Join the 5 and Up Club's **Summer Art Workshop** at the Greenbelt Park on May 19, Saturday at 11-4 pm.

It's an afternoon fiesta with parlor games, food stalls, a tour of the Diorama Exhibit of Ayala Museum, and an art workshop on basic pastel. Imagine all the fun and learning you'll get in one afternoon.

Registration Fee is P 350.00 inclusive of lunch, snacks, art materials, tour of the museum, and art lessons.

Be a member and have the chance to join all the fun activities of the club.

Call our office Mondays-Fridays at 10 am-7 pm only or fax us your name and number at 426-20-18. Look for Catherine.

Want to write for our newsletter?

What's Up is 5 and Up Club's quarterly newsletter that is sent to 1000 members.

This year we are inviting young and talented children to write for our newsletter.

We are also conducting a Journalism Workshop for aspiring young journalists on September. Interested parties can call our office at 435-97-42 up to 45, Mondays to Fridays only.

5 and UP
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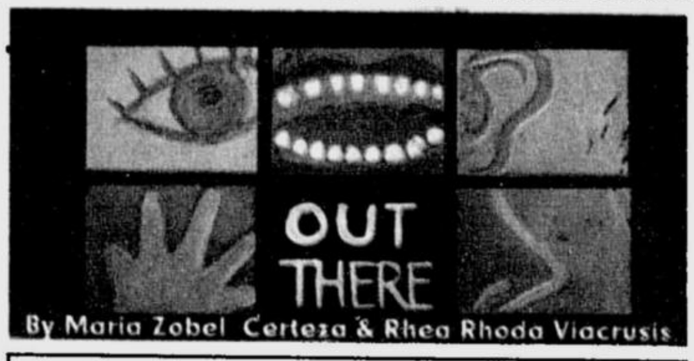
Contests

WANNABE A STAR? Sta. Lucia East Grandmall has just kicked off its "Search for Little Star 2001." If you are between 4 and 8 years old, cute, smart and talented, fill up an entry form available at the Customer Service booths of the Sta. Lucia East Grandmall. Attach a copy of your recent 2x2 photo and your best whole body photo. Over P20,000 worth of cash and prizes will be given so join now!

EARTH DAY AFFAIR! Calling all Jollibee Kids Workshop and Superkids Club members. In celebration of Earth Day, you are all invited to witness "JKW at Its Best!" This is a competition of talented JKW members as they render a musical with the theme "The Cry of Nature." Be at the Sta. Lucia Grand Mall Ph3 Fountain Area on April 28. For the time and other details call up Ms Emma Serrano at 361-7850 or 367-8733.

WRITING CONTEST. Do you remember the greatest book you've ever read? Maybe you can write about it and send it to the country's most prestigious literary contest, the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature. It's open to all high school students ages 18 and below. You can write it in English ("The Greatest Book I've Read") or in Filipino ("Ang Pinakamahusay na Aklat na Aking Nabasa"). Deadline of entries is on April 30. Your entry should include an official letter from your principal saying that you are a bonafide student of your school. You may also send entries via e-mail to cpaward@info.com.ph. So, start writing now!



By Maria Zobel Certeza & Rhea Rhoda Viacrusis

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Workshops

FOR YOUNG WRITERS ONLY. If you are 9 to 14 years old and love to write, join Ayala Museum's beginners class in Creative Writing. Sessions will begin today and will be held every Saturday until May 12. Call 812-1191 to 97 local 130 for more details.

FREE ART WORKSHOP! Faber Castell, well-known for its high quality art and writing materials, is sponsoring a **free** art workshop from April 17 to June 2 in selected SM malls . It's open to kids ages 7 to 11 years old. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call the Faber Castell Marketing Department at 361-7391, 361-7392, 361-7395, or 361-7396.

THE MERRY POTTER. Join the Busy Hands Summer Workshop offered at the Pottery Exchange. Kids and adults will learn about the wondrous and magical arts of pottery hand-building, painting on ceramics and bead-making with polymer clay and decoupage. Workshop runs from April 24 to 27. Call 722-9986 for more information. You may also visit Pottery Exchange located at Bonaventure Bldg., Garden Level, Ortigas Avenue, San Juan.

FUN AT THE MUSEUM. Learn how to draw in Ayala Museum's Basic Drawing Workshop. The course begins on April 25 and will be held on Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Another batch will begin on April 28 and will be held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The Beginners Oil Painting class will also have two batches. The Wednesday session will start on April 26 and will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. The Beginners Watercolor class will begin on April 28. It will be held every Saturday from 9 to 12 PM. Other classes scheduled are: Rendering in Black & White; Advanced Painting from Life (May 5-June 23); Beginners' Pastel (May 26-July 14 and May 23-June 13); Decorative Arts (April 19-May 10, April 20-May 11 and April 21-May 12); Faux Stained Glass (May 19-June 9); and Parchment Craft (June 23). For inquiries and reservations, call the Ayala Museum at 812-1191 to 97 loc. 130.

CREATIVE BEAN. Make this summer fruitful and enjoyable! Join Creative Bean's summer art workshop which starts on April 23. Learn how to draw portraits and paint landscapes using various media such as charcoal, watercolor, oil pastel and oil paint. This month-long activity will culminate with an exhibit of the works of the participants. Enroll now to the nearest venue: Parañaque—Marymount School, BF Homes or call 809-4486, 809-4488; Makati—Child Learning Center, 1887 Milagros St., Santiago Village or call 895-

2389, 890-2474; Las Piñas—Bloomfield Academy, BF Resort Village or call 874-1513, 871-0559; or at BF Resort Clubhouse, Bennet Street, BF Resort Village or call 873-7129.

Exhibit

JAPANESE DOLLS. Check out the "Dolls of Japan: Shapes of Payer, Embodiments of Love" traveling exhibition. Featuring wooden dolls; festival dolls, and dolls depicting Japanese traditional theater. The exhibit runs until May 7, 2001 at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila's upper galleries. For booking and guided tours, please call 532-7855 or 521-1517.

Activities

BLAZING BOOKS! Love reading books? Well, this summer class is for you! Join the "Heat the Books" workshop. Open to kids ages 4-12. For details, call the R.E.A.D. office at 436-0229 or text them through 0919-8456892 or 0917-9468126. Look for teachers Lani and Angie.

CALLING ALL BOOKWORMS! National Bookstore invites you to join its "Summer Reading Adventure" workshops! Open to kids age 5-10 years old. To register, go to the customer service center of any National Bookstore branch. The workshop will run from April 6 to May 11.

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Permit No. 0095 Series of 2001
Promo Period from March 30 to June 30, 2001

STORY BY RISA HALAGUEÑA
ILLUSTRATIONS BY PAOLO LIM

ALEX is my 5-year-old Maltese. She's a small, adorable toy dog with fluffy white hair and is sometimes mistaken for an expensive-looking doormat. One day, our helper told me a certain Sonia "borrowed" Alex from my mom while I was away. Who is this Sonia? What gives her the right to snatch away other people's pets? I was so upset!

At dinnertime, my mom explained to me that "*Tita* Sonia" felt Alex needed more attention. *Tita* Sonia would rehabilitate her. She would bring Alex to her farm in Tagaytay to "recuperate."

Recuperate? Rest? But she is as pampered as a pet can get. She doesn't lift a paw. She sleeps whenever she feels like it.

I couldn't believe Alex was gone. I was just so mad.

To make it worse, my mom told me Alex didn't want to get off *Tita* Sonia's lap and happily sat next to her on the front seat of her van en route to Tagaytay. Talk about loyalty! How can I file "dognap" charges when Alex seems to have happily succumbed to *Tita* Sonia's charms.

What if Alex doesn't like us anymore? What if she prefers the farm to the city?

Now I'll have to get used to leaving my door open since I know Alex won't be pushing the door to barge in and sleep on my slippers.

Oh Alex, please come back. You never told me you wanted to go to a spa.

***Risa** lives in Muntinlupa City.*

***Paolo** is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*

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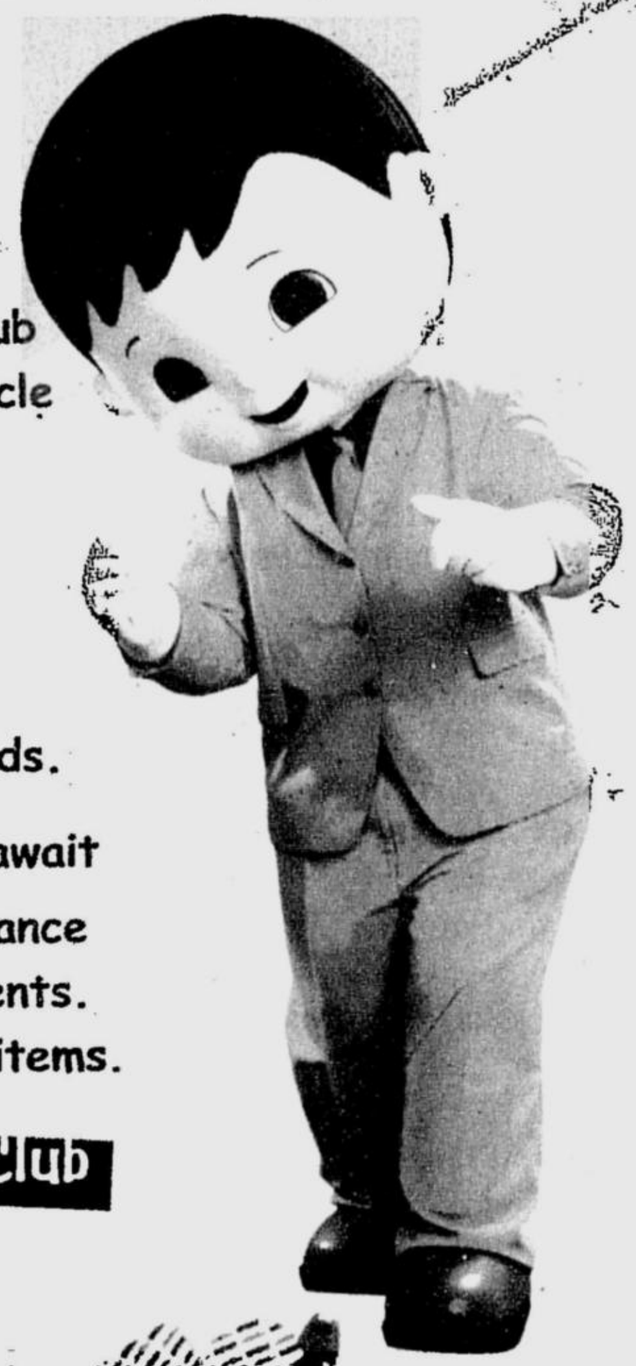

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for MOM

Name

Birthday

Home Address

Zip Code

Telephone

Hobbies/Interests

for KID

Name

Birthday

Home Address

Zip Code Telephone

School

Address

Grade

Hobbies/Interests

FOR or By KIDS

'Gabriela'

What is it like to be a female revolutionary hero? Read on and find out what thoughts could have been going through Gabriela Silang's mind before she was executed by the Spaniards

STORY BY RACHEL SO
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARCUS NADA

"FIGHT them Gabriela. Fight the Spanish. Promise me that you will continue the fight."

Those words from my husband started it all. His name was Diego Silang and those words were what he said to me as he lay dying in my arms. I said yes to him when we were married and I said yes to him again and promised to devote the rest of my life to fighting for freedom.

Diego and I married when he was 27 years old, and I, 26. I had been widowed two years earlier and had some property left to me by my first husband. This gave me my own income. I didn't plan to get married again but Diego changed that.

WE CAME from similar backgrounds. He grew up serving in the household of the parish priest of Vigan while I was raised by a priest. Fray Tomas Millian reared me after I was separated from my parents, an Itneg mother and an Ilocano father, shortly after my birth.

Diego walked as a government courier. He was given important letters to take to Manila. On his return to Vigan, he brought mail, some of which came from far away Mexico.

His work opened his eyes to the injustices committed by the Spaniards. He saw the burden the high taxes gave us. He saw the way the menfolk were given *polo*, or forced labor. He saw how the Indios, as we were called by the Spanish, suffered under the cruelty of Spanish rules.

His work also helped him become familiar with the territory where he would fight his battles later on.

BUT BEFORE all these, we had five happy years. He went about his work, traveling

and delivering his letters. I went about overseeing the farm while he was away.

Then in 1762, the British Navy came and crushed the Spanish forces. We were shocked. We thought the Spanish were invincible!

This event inspired the people of Pangasinan to revolt against a hated *Alcalde Mayor*.

On seeing this, Diego went to our *Alcalde Mayor* in Vigan, Don Antonio Zabala, to ask for reforms. But Diego was thrown into jail.

He saw then that peaceful negotiations wouldn't change anything. The Spaniards wouldn't listen. So when he got out of prison he traveled all over the province of Ilocos, calling on the people to take up arms and revolt.

I fought at his side during those battles with the Spaniards. We always beat them. Don Antonio Zabala and Bishop Bernardo Ustariz were stripped of their power. With the support of the people, Diego led Ilocos as its governor.

BECAUSE of our success, the people of Pangasinan and Cagayan Valley were inspired to revolt too.

This led the Spanish to plan an offensive against our forces. When he learned of this, Diego sought the help of the British.

The Spanish finally heard about this, and they took severe measures. They hired a Spanish *mestizo*, Miguel Vicos, to assassinate my husband. On May 28, 1763, Vicos succeeded. He shot my husband in the back.

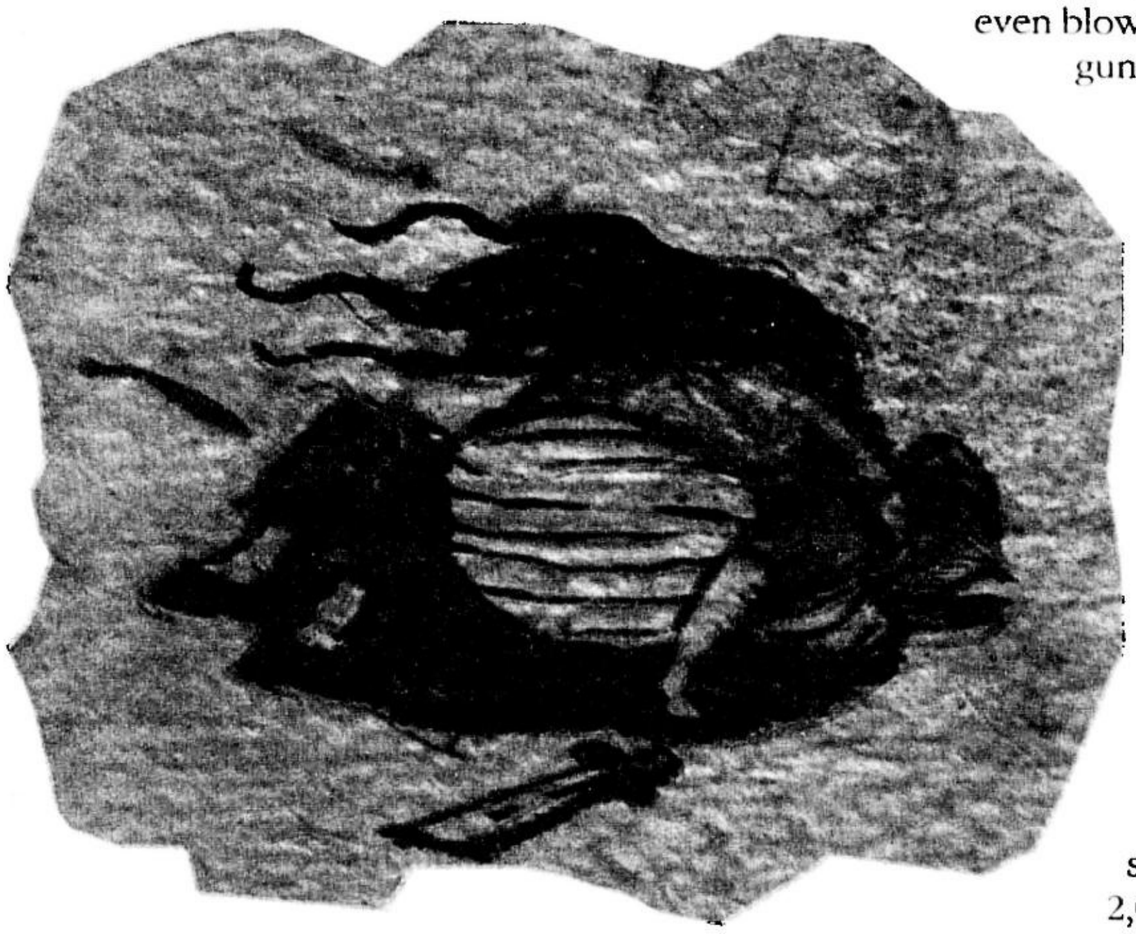
And so it began. I kept my promise to Diego. I continued the fight against the Spaniards. I took the leadership of my husband's orphaned army, with Diego's uncle—Nicolas Cariño—there to help me.

"I took the leadership of my husband's orphaned army... My men started calling me 'Generala,' as a sign of respect"

My men started calling me "Generala," as a sign of respect. Our first fight was in Santa, my hometown. There we successfully raided its Spanish garrison on the Ilocos coast.

Because of our success, the Spanish launched a manhunt for me. But we always retreated to Pidigan, Albay. This was where my mother was. We had a joyful reunion.

I HAD only 200 men at that time. We were armed with crude weapons: bows and arrows, clubs, spears, axes and blades, even blowguns. We had very few guns.



Because the Spanish couldn't catch me, it was even rumored that I had supernatural powers! That I had an *anting-anting* to protect me from bullets and swords! But maybe in a way this was true. I had the memory of my promise to my husband to give me the strength and courage that I needed.

I reorganized my army. Volunteers kept showing up. Soon, I had 2,000 people in my army. We prepared to raid Vigan, to renew Diego's declaration of independence of the Ilocos region from Spanish rule.

But the Spanish heard of my plans. They organized an army of 6,000 men, with Don Manuel de Arza as their leader.

ON SEPT. 10, 1763, outnumbered and with inferior weapons, we lost the battle for Vigan. We withdrew inland, toward the mountains of Abra. I had less than 100 men.

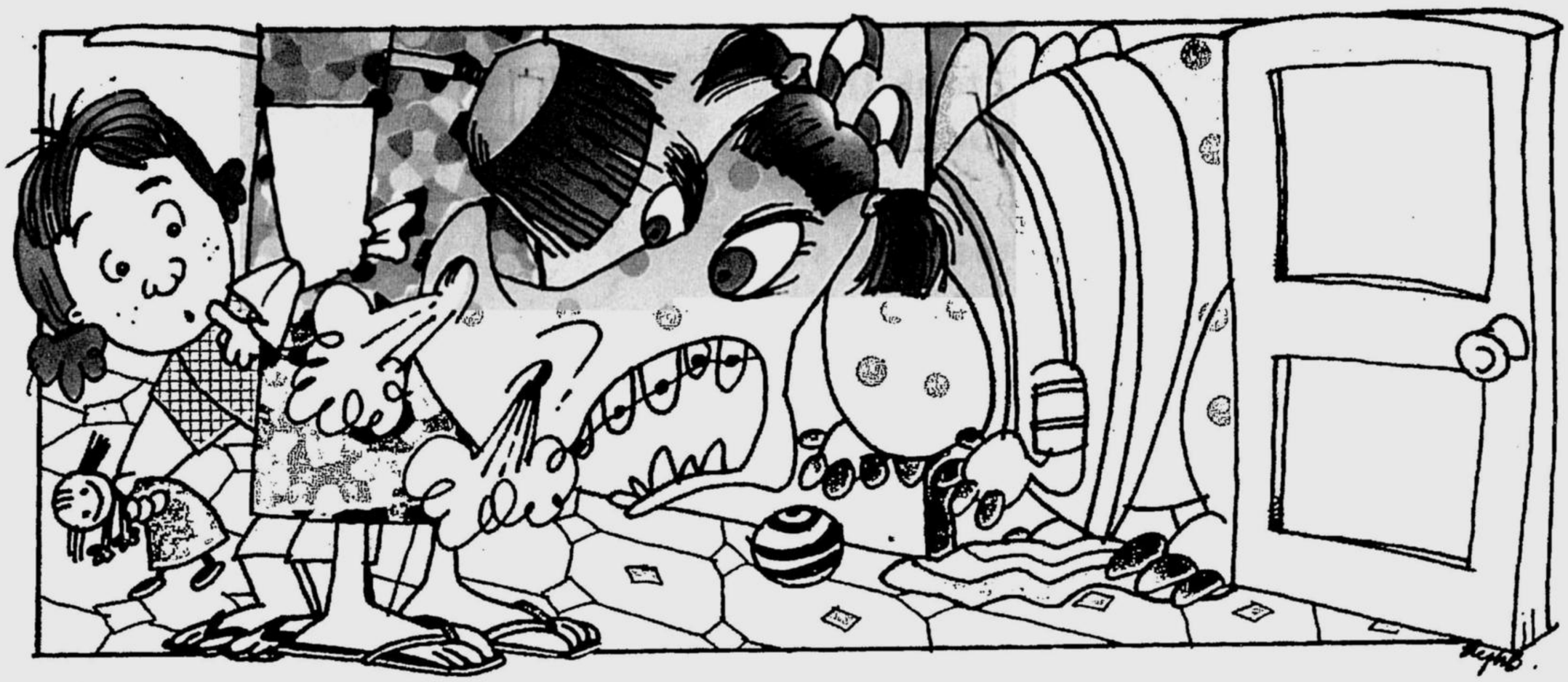
Arza stopped at every village they passed, warning the villagers not to give us aid. He promised them a treasure of gold and precious jewels if they helped in our capture.

Finally, starving and exhausted, we were cornered by Arza and his men. They marched us down the Ilocos coast. I was forced to watch as the Spaniards executed my men one by one. Their bodies were left to serve as a warning to others who were planning to revolt against Spanish domination.

They are constructing "special" gallows for me. Tomorrow, the 20th of September 1763, I shall be hanged. But my strength and courage are still with me. Because by my death I know that others will promise to continue the fight for our freedom.

Rachel *lives in Quezon City.*

Marcus *delves into different forms of art, whatever it may be. He is a member of the UST mountaineering club and of Ang Ink.*



Ang Mahiwagang Silid

KUWENTO NI CHRISTINE S. BELLEN
GUHIT NI ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

PARA kay Tina, may mahiwagang silid sa bahay nila. Bawal pumasok nang siya lamang mag-isa. Maraming hiwagang nangyayari kapag pumapasok siya dito. Ngunit lagi, nakakapasok lamang siya kapag nililinis iyon ng kanyang nanay tuwing umaga. Kaya't araw-araw niyang hinihintay ang pagpasok nila sa Mahiwagang Silid.

Minsan, hardin na mistulang paraiso ang silid. Gusto niyang mamitas ng mga bulaklak, tumakbo ng tumakbo at kapag napagod ay humiga sa berdeng damo. Ngunit lagi: "Huwag kang takbo ng takbo, baka mabali ang mga halaman!" Minsan, kaharian ang silid. Suot niya ang isang magara at mahabang damit. Iikut-ikot siya sa salamin na parang prinsesa. Ngunit lagi: "Hubarin mo 'yan at 'di iyo!" Minsan opisina ang silid. Nakaupo siya at nagsusulat sa malapad na mesa. O kaya nama'y nagta-*type* sa computer. Ngunit lagi: "Naku, baka masira 'yan. Minsan, paaralan ang silid. Nakapaligid sa kanya ang mga estudyanteng laruan. Tawag sa kanya'y Ma'am. Ngunit lagi: "Isauli mo ang mga 'yan!" Minsan, isa sa pinakaayaw ni Tina ay kapag dumarating ang malaking dragon sa silid at kailangan niyang magtago sa likod ng kanyang nanay. "Umalis ka dito!" sigaw ng dragon habang bumubuga ng apoy ang bibig. Buti na lang, takot ang dragon sa kanyang nanay. Ngunit napipilitan siyang lumabas ng mahiwagang silid.

Sa Ate Pat ni Tina ang mahiwagang silid. Sabi ng nanay at tatay niya, sa susunod na taon, mag-aaral na rin siya at doon na rin ang kanyang silid. Grade 2 ang Ate Pat at matutulungan na raw siya nito sa pag-aaral. Kapag naririnig iyon ng Ate Pat niya, umiirap ito sa kanya. Gayunpaman, pinakahihintay ni Tina ang paglipat sa silid. Ngunit paano ang mabagsik na dragon. Naiisip niya, "Baka kainin ako ng buhay, itapon sa labas ng bintana, o kaya'y bugahan ng apoy at gawing chicharon." Nangingilabot si Tina sa tuwing maiisip ang maaring gawin ng dragon sa

kanya. Lalo na kapag mainit ang ulo nito.

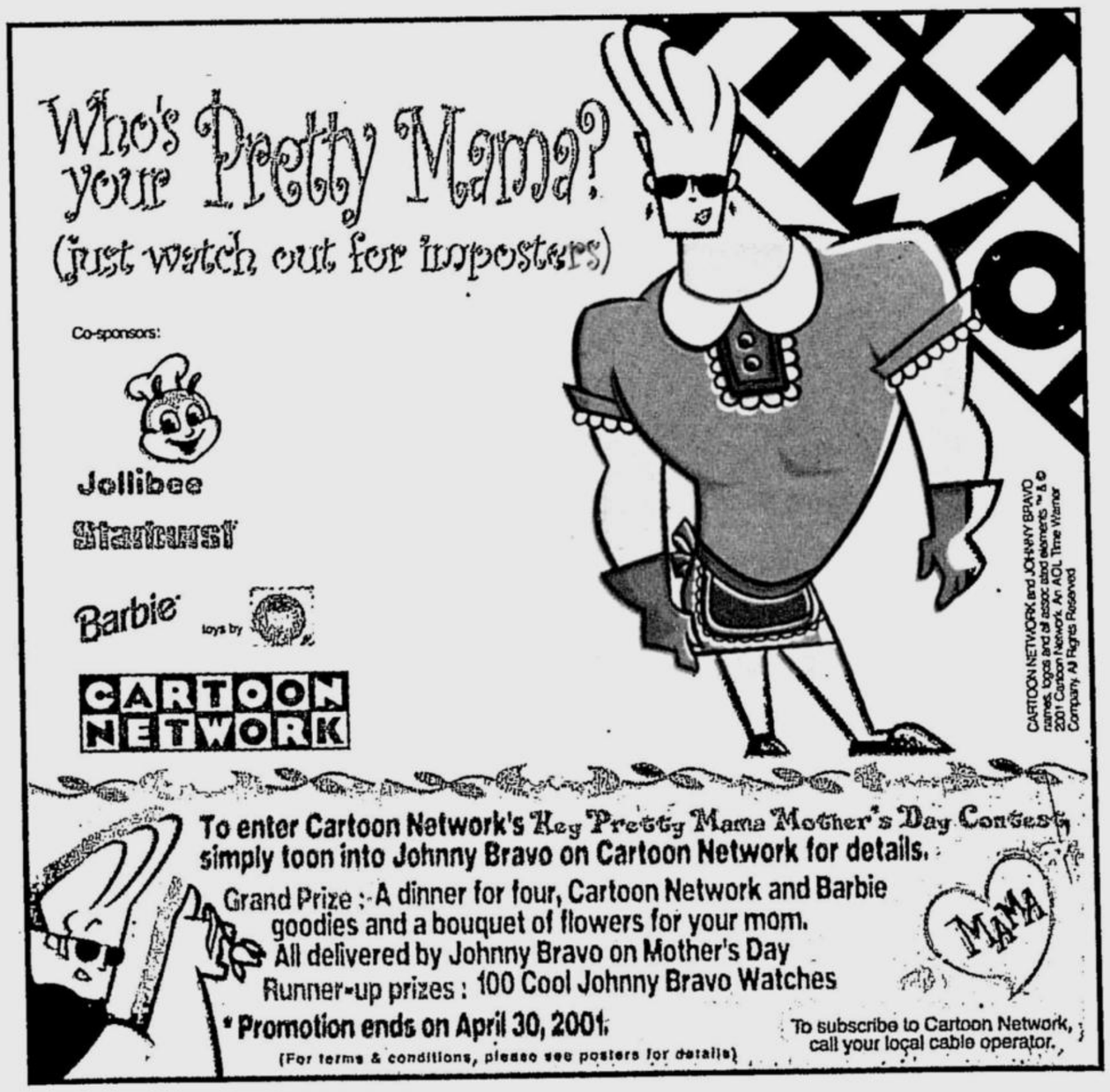
Isang araw, kasama uli ng Nanay si Tina habang naglilinis sa mahiwagang silid. Umupo siya sa isang bangka at pinilit sumakay dito. Nanagwan ng nanagwan. "Nasaan ang isla?" sabi ni Tina. Ngunit: "Huwag mong sakyan ang unan!" saway ng kanyang nanay. Biglang dumating ang dragon. Nakita nito ang magulong kama. Umusok ang ilong sa galit. Pinipilit siya nitong ialis sa kama. Napaso si Tina sa hawak ng dragon. "Kailangan mong lumaban!" Umahon siya sa dagat. At naging malawak na arena ang mahiwagang silid. Naghihiyawan ang mga tao sa paningin ni Tina. "Patayin ang dragon! Patayin ang dragon!" Hawak niya ang espada at kalasag. Haharapin niya ng mabangis na dragon. Nagpambuno sila. "Tama na 'yan!" pinaghiwalay sila ng kanyang nanay. Katakut-takot na pangaral ang tinanggap nila ni Ate Pat sa kanilang Tatay nang magsumbong ang nanay tungkol sa nangyari. Bilang parusa, sila ni Ate Pat ang maglilinis ng mahiwagang silid. Napaaga rin ang paglipat niya rito. Kinabukasan, naroon na ang mga gamit niya mula sa silid ng kanyang nanay at tatay. Nang gabing iyon, hindi makatulog si Tina. Madilim na kuweba ang mahiwagang silid.

Minsan, maraming dumating na dayuhan sa mahiwagang silid. Maiingay ang mga ito. Nagdidikit ng mga larawan sa papel. Project. Iyon and dinig ni Tina. Nang makita siya ng isa, pinisil ang kanyang pisngi. "Ang cute! Natapakan ba ng kalabaw ang ilong mo?" Nagtawanan ang mga ito. "Katulad din sila ng dragon, magkakaibigan kasi," sa loob-loob ni Tina. "Labas ka muna at baka sirain mo ang project namin." Sabi pa ng isa. Ngunit narinig ng dragon ang panunukso at pagpapalabas sa kanya. "Cute ang kapatid ko at kuwarto namin ito!" sabi nito. Noon lamang niya narinig kay Ate Pat 'yon. Mainam pala kapag may ibang dragong nang-aaway sa kanya.

Kinabukasan, kaarawan ng Ate Pat. Higit na naging mahiwaga ang silid. Pinuno ito ni Tina ng lobong pula. Nagpabili siya sa kanyang nanay at tatay. Malinis na malinis din ang silid at isang malaking *banner* ang isinabit nila. "Happy Birthday Ate Pat!" sulat-kamay ni Tina sa paggabay ng kanyang nanay. Tuwang-tuwa ang Ate Pat. Niyakap siya nito. Simula noon, nawala na ang mabagsik na dragon sa silid. Hindi na rin ito madilim na kuweba tuwing gabi. Nagiging damuhan ito madalas. At habang nakahiga sila ni Ate Pat, tinatanaw nila ang buwan at mga bituin.

*Si **Christine** ay nagtapos ng BA Philippine Studies na may mga majors sa Malikhaing Pagsusulat at Art Studies sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas, Diliman, noong 1995.*

*Si **Albert** ay nagtapos ng Fine Arts sa UP Diliman. Isa siya sa mga staff artists ng Philippine Daily Inquirer.*



The Story Weavers

(from page 1)

Scary Smog

The works of science fiction author Madeleine L'Engle's gave Patricia Mae C. Cielo, 13, the idea for her futuristic, science fiction type piece in English. "Renaissance. . .A New Beginning" describes a world where pollution is so bad, the only place where sunlight penetrates the smog has become a tourist attraction. A student at the Colegio de San Agustin in Makati City, Patricia Mae read a lot about the environment to prepare for her story. She's worried that very basic human needs like oxygen are being endangered by man's thoughtless destruction of the environment.

What to do

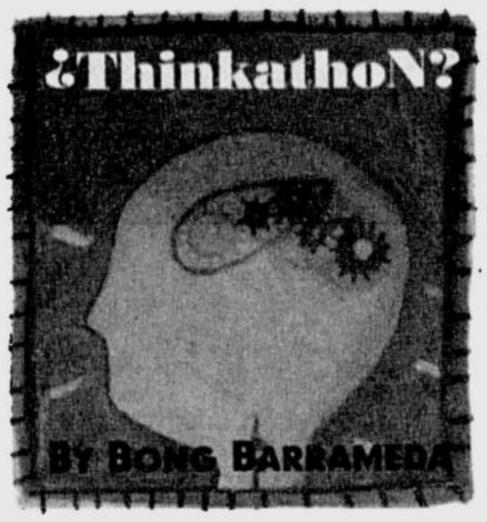
And all three girls are planning to go beyond writing award-winning stories. They are hoping to help spread the word, within their own families, their peers and their families, that the environment has to be cared for, nurtured, protected and preserved.

Ritchel hopes to do more than just write about the problem by reminding her parents to make sure they do not do anything to destroy the environment. She would also encourage her classmates to convince their own families to do the same.

Jenny Pearl said she and her peers could start by being mindful about how they dispose of trash. She could also remind her parents to conserve the natural resources so they could be enjoyed by succeeding generations.

Patricia said kids like her could make a difference by helping protect and preserve different life forms, both plants and animals.

The three young authors were honored in an awards night on April 4 in Makati City. Their stories were stage-produced by PETA on the night of the awards. The three girls each won P30,000 in cash plus a scholarship package worth P25,000 from Pacific Plans Inc. Their schools were awarded with P20,000 each and their Homeroom advisers received P5,000 each.



Rated 'X'

HOW many words or names that start with "x" do you know? Take this quick quiz and see if you can get an "x"-cellent score by matching each description with its rightful owner in the list at right.

1.	A small, three-masted Mediterranean sailing vessel.	xylophone
2.	A chemical element that is a heavy, colorless gas.	xerophthalmia
3.	A process for copying printed or written material.	xenophobia
4.	A plant adapted to grow under very dry or desert conditions.	xylem
5.	An electromagnetic radiation of very short wavelength.	xebec
6.	The 14th letter of the Greek alphabet.	xi
7.	The woody tissue of a plant.	xyster
8.	A musical instrument consisting of a series of wooden bars.	xanthic
9.	Fear or hatred of strangers or foreigners.	xerophyte
10.	Tending to have a yellow color.	xenon
11.	A monetary unit of Vietnam.	xerography
12.	A surgical instrument for scraping bones.	X-ray
13.	Eye disease caused by vitamin A deficiency, marked by dryness and ulceration of the conjunctiva and cornea.	Xiamen
14.	Port city in southern China, in Fujian Province, that is also called Amoy.	xu
15.	An idyllically beautiful place	

Answers:

1. xebec
2. xenon
3. xerography
4. xerophyte
5. X-ray
6. xi
7. xylem
8. xylophone
9. xenophobia
10. xanthic
11. xu
12. xyster
13. xerophthalmia
14. Xiamen
15. Xanadu

Ratings:

14 - 15

11 - 13

7 - 10

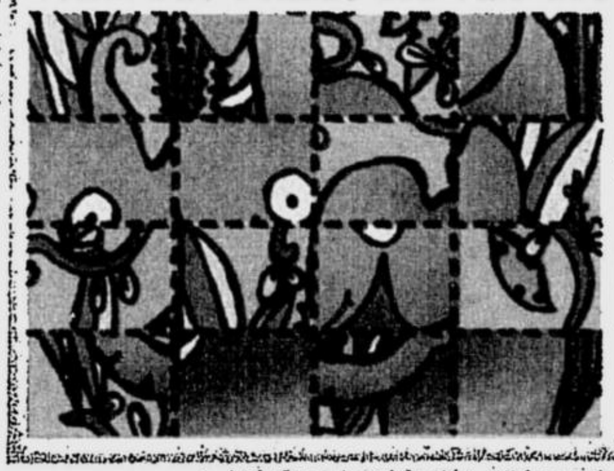
THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

Poetic Patty's Parlor

If it is true they don't forget,
then I am truly glad we met.
For though one day grown up I'll be
She will still remember me!

FORM THE PUZZLE AND FIND OUT WHAT PATTYS TALKIE ABOUT



WHAT DID HE PACK THIS TIME?

Eddie has a problem packing. He brings EVERYTHING when he goes on a trip (unlike YOU, who pack only what you REALLY need... right?).

B	A	F	I	S	H	B	O	W	L	D	A	S	M	
K	L	S	K	A	C	A	P	E	R	S	N	T	P	
P	T	E	L	E	V	I	S	I	O	N	Y	E	I	
A	F	B	N	J	X	Y	A	R	E	C	O	R	L	
P	O	A	T	D	O	G	L	E	M	P	R	E	L	
E	S	K	A	T	E	B	O	A	R	D	N	O	O	
R	C	H	P	O	W	R	F	S	T	E	R	G	W	
S	L	A	M	P	R	C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	

blender, dishes, lamp, skateboard, computer, jars, plates, papers, pillow

SAND CASTLE KIT!

Let me introduce to you a friend from the sea.

HI! I'M HERMIE D. CRAB. TODAY I'LL TALK ABOUT ORDINARY IMPLEMENTS FOR A FINE ARTISTIC SEASIDE ENDEAVOR."

He'll list stuff you can find at home that you can use to make a sand castle!

A plastic jug (cut along the dotted lines) makes a great sand scoop!

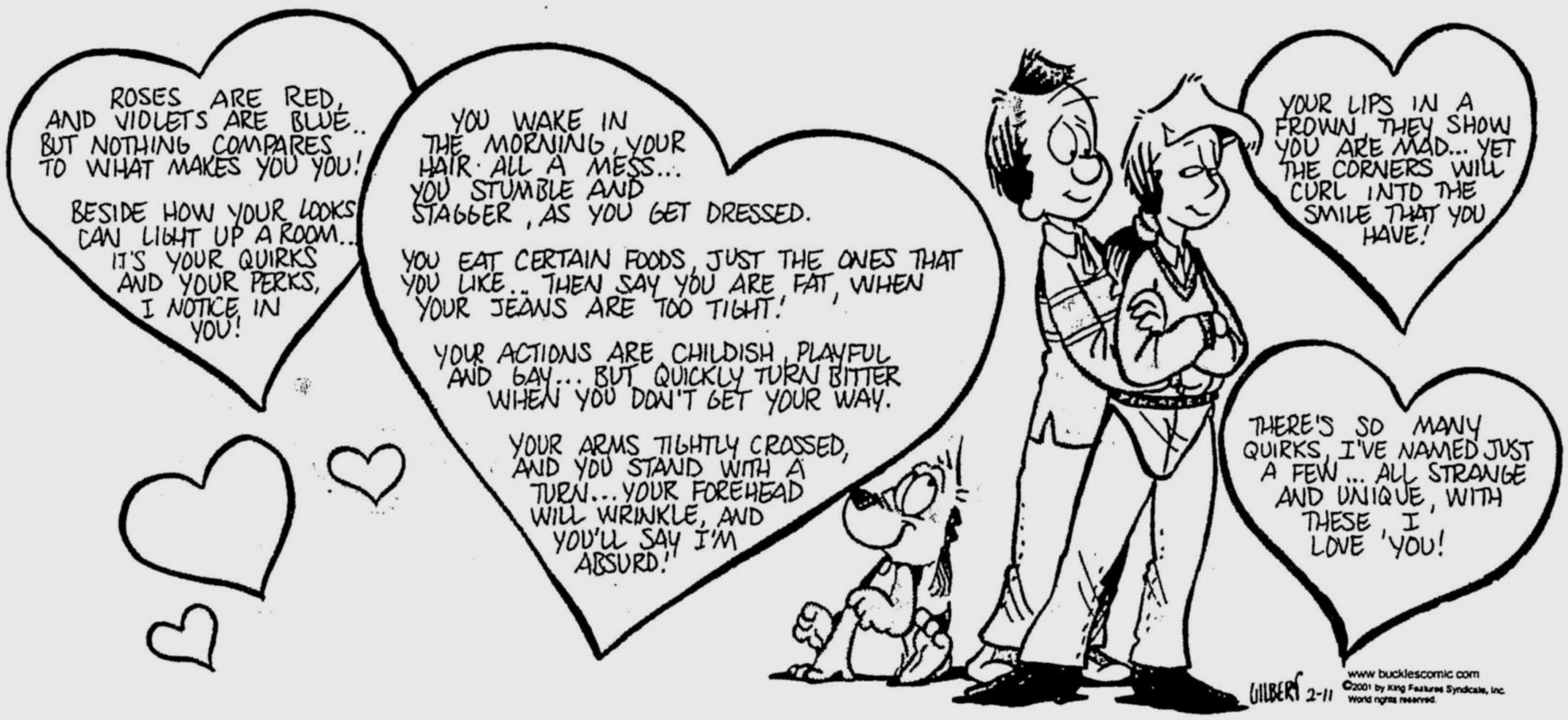
Used plastic ice cream tubs make good pails and castle molds.

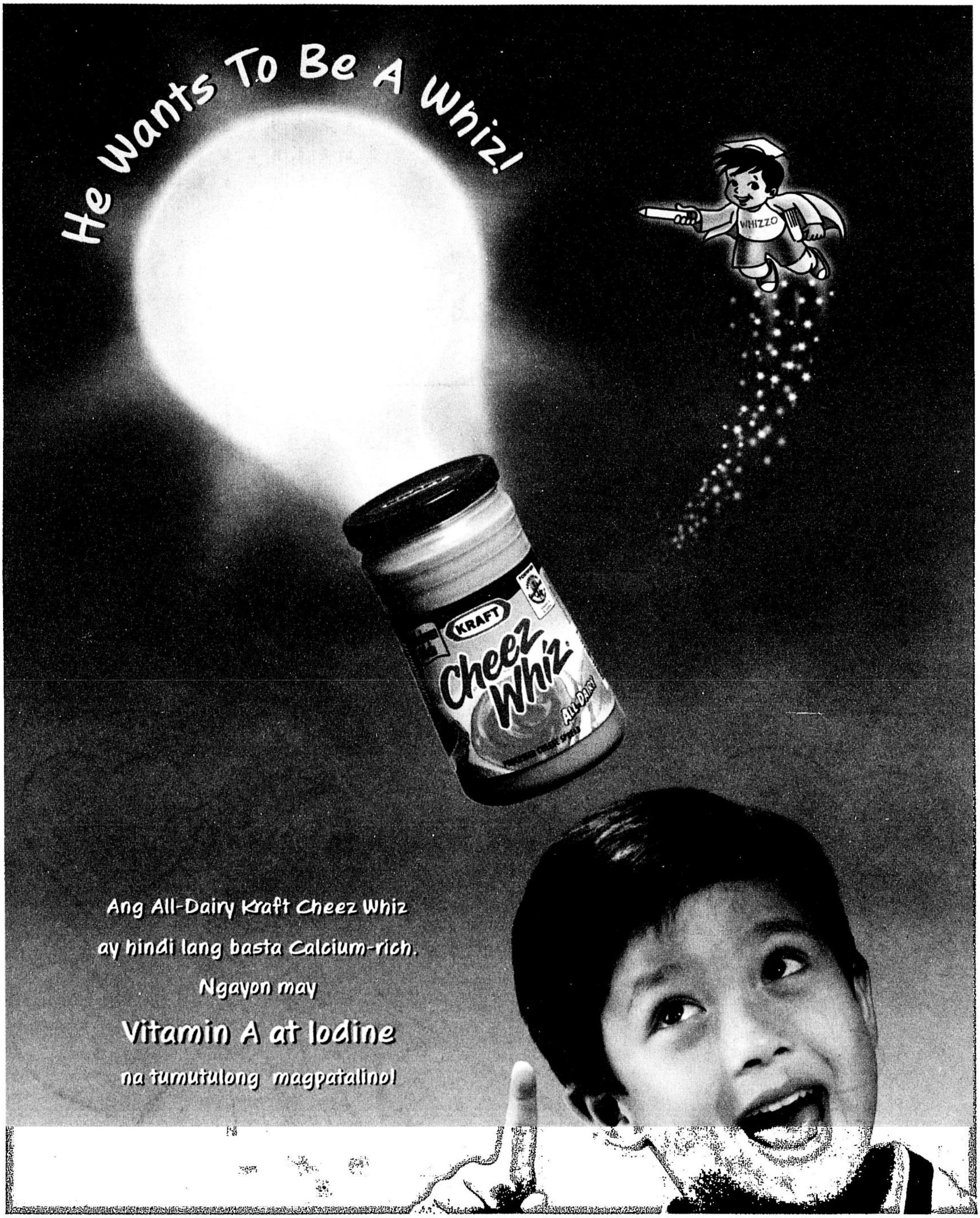
Use toilet paper rolls, cups, plastic cups to make different sized towers. Matchboxes are good for windows & small birds.

An old spatula or used credit card can be used to smooth sand. A cardboard cut edges makes interesting patterns on sand.

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT




He Wants To Be A Whiz!
WHIZZO
KRAFT
Cheez Whiz
ALL-DAIRY
Ang All-Dairy Kraft Cheez Whiz
ay hindi lang basta Calcium-rich.
Ngayon may
Vitamin A at Iodine
na tumutulong magpatalino!

RP population balloons to 76.4 million

STORY ON PAGE A2

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS

APRIL 22, 2001 ★ 80 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 133

GMA dishes out 'well done' roast

BY DONNA S. CUETO

WHILE she only got a "medium-rare" roast at her first Gridiron Night of the National Press Club, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

GMA/ A21

TODAY IN THE INQUIRER MAGAZINE

Filipinos on the Philippines Insider views of Palawan, Baguio, Laguna, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro

Aircon cell awaits Erap

Ex-president to be accorded respect, dignity in Cavite jail

CHRISTINE HERRERA AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

A SPACIOUS airconditioned prison cell with a receiving area and an exercise yard has been prepared for Joseph Estrada in the five-hectare compound of the Philippine National Police's Special Action Forces Training and Seminar Center in Silang, Cavite, a PNP official told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The 80 square-meter facility would be the indicted former president's "temporary home" while undergoing trial on plunder charges, until he is either convicted or cleared by the Sandiganbayan, the source said.

On the other hand, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, one of the co-accused in the plunder case against his father, will be detained in an ordinary jail cell, according to the official.

The cell reserved for the ousted president, however, is equipped with its own bathroom with a simple shower, a television set and a refrigerator.

A receiving area for visitors was also constructed.

The facility will be complemented with a 300 square-meter lot, where Estrada would presumably be allowed to exercise daily and get some fresh air and morning sunlight.

What makes the room look like a prison cell is a security-locked jail railing outside the door, the source said.

The facility was constructed a few weeks before the Supreme Court handed down its final decision rejecting Estrada's claim to the presidency and stripping him of immunity, according to the official.

No telephone or cell phone will be allowed inside the cell, he said.

But Estrada, who has made little effort to hide his contempt for the press, will be provided with several newspapers upon his request, the source added.

He would also be allowed to bring along his favorite books, the official said, adding that the cell had an area where he could write his memoirs if he wished.

As provided for by law, conjugal visits would be allowed with his legal wife, senatorial candidate and former first lady Luisa "Loi" Estrada.

The deposed leader would be accorded "the respect and dignity befitting a former president" from the moment of his arrest until he is eventually cleared or convicted, Philippine National Police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza said yesterday.

An "adequate" number of prison guards would be assigned to secure the ousted president around the clock, said the anonymous official.

AIRCON/ A20

VAL HANDUMON

GOING NATIVE

President Macapagal wears the Cordillera *lumma* (blazer), *bakget* (belt) and *tapis* (wraparound skirt) while trying her hand at a centuries-old method of weaving in Tadian, Mt. Province. *(Story on Page A2.)*

FBI nabs ex-PCGG chief in con game

THE US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrested on Wednesday a "David Castro," apparently the former head of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, and an Edilberto Marcos, who claimed to be a son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The two Filipinos were arrested in New York after Marcos allegedly tried to sell an undercover FBI agent a fake $20-million share of an $800-million gold certificate, the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong reported yesterday.

The gold belonged to the Marcos family and was stored in the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS), according to the "Marcos son."

Castro was caught in the sting operation after claiming that as a Philippine government representative he needed to collect taxes on any transaction involving the gold, the Post said.

In Manila, Jorge Sarmiento, PCGG officer in charge, said the agency was checking to see if the "David Castro" was the same Castro who headed the PCGG from September 1990 to June 1992.

An INQUIRER source close to the Marcos family said that Edilberto Marcos' real name was Edilberto del Carmen.

The source claimed that while the latter's documents were fake, the $800-million gold certificate held by Castro was authentic.

The source, who returned to Manila from the United States yesterday, said he had gone to the FBI to furnish the US domestic security agency with documents on the attempt by Edilberto to withdraw the deposits using the "authentic" certificate in Castro's possession.

The source said he first faxed the documents to the US Embassy in Manila. When they were cleared as authentic, he said, he got the go-signal to go to the United States to show the documents and reveal what he knew to the FBI. He said he stayed there for five days.

The certificate "was authentic. (Castro) took that from the PCGG," the source claimed.

"In the US court deposition, FBI special agent Ronald Henderson alleged (Edilberto)

FBI/ A21

Orphaned orphanage fights for survival

BY RAUL C. DANCEL

CHOSEN Children Village Foundation, a private institution founded in 1989 by Ron and Lita Fullerton to help find foster homes for physically and mentally handicapped orphans, did not figure in the news at all when Urban Bank shut down on April 26 last year.

Business reporters were attracted by the big names like San Miguel Corp., Petron Corp. and Manila Electric Co., all of which lost a lot of money when Urban Bank went belly up.

Unlike these blue-chip companies, however, Chosen Children lost more than just petty cash.

Ron Fullerton woke up one morning at the end of a spiritually exhausting Lenten weekend to find he had lost almost P7 million. This was money that he and his wife had been trying to raise for the past 10 years as a support fund for their 12-year-old foundation, and he had 73 orphans to take care of.

These weren't ordinary children. These were children that state orphanages had to turn away because of their handicaps: missing limbs, blindness, deafness, autism, Down's Syndrome.

Children like Let-Let (not her real name), who was found in a taxicab with her tongue cut off, one eye gouged out, her private parts mutilated; and Yojie (not her real name), a three-year-old whose motor and

ORPHANED/ A20

BROTHERS Sin, from left Manuel, Jaime, then a bishop, and Ramon, a medical doctor who keeps a close watch over the cardinal's health.

IRREPRESSIBLE AS EVER

Sin: Hale and hearty appetite at 72

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

JAIME Cardinal Sin, who nearly died of a kidney disease in 1998, is now in tip-top shape and would even outlive the Macapagal administration or live to see and lead, an Edsa III if, say, Joseph Estrada tries to resist arrest, his younger brother and doctor, Ramon Sin said.

At 72, the cardinal still retains the vitality of his young priesthood days in his hometown of Jaro, Iloilo. This same energy coupled with an unbreakable moral conviction enabled him to lead the fight against the Marcos dictatorship 16 years ago.

He is as talkative, as fiery and as large an eater as before, Ramon said of his brother.

Recently, the cardinal hosted a dinner for Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco at Villa San Miguel and served seven Chinese courses from the Shangri-La restaurant.

The cardinal emptied his plate and had several cups of his favorite soup "Buddha Jumps Over the Fence," said Ramon, a former dean of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery.

"He still eats a lot. In fact, he eats much more than I do," Ramon said putting his hands on his stomach.

Every day, Sin has three full meals, including an afternoon snack, says Ramon.

Sin himself refused to talk about his health.

"Let's talk about Jesus Christ instead," his spokesman, Msgr. Soc Villegas, quoted him as saying in reply to the INQUIRER's request for an interview on the subject.

He said Sin had a hectic schedule.

He has no dietary restrictions despite his diabetes because he takes medicines prescribed by Ramon and several other doctors from Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital and the UST Hospital.

But the best medicine, Ramon says, is the many prayers offered for the cardinal's good health.

Sin loves Caesar's salad, steak and *lechon* (roast pig). Incidentally, the latter is also the favorite of Estrada, the man he and

SIN/ A20

Second FRONT PAGE

Population count leaps to 76.4 million

Figure represents increase of 1.7M people yearly or 4,624 daily in latter part of 1990s

THE PHILIPPINES' population has passed the 75 million mark despite government warnings about the danger of a booming growth rate, the National Statistics Office announced yesterday.

A government census completed in May 2000 showed that 76.49 million people now live in the country—an increase of 1.7 million people annually or 4,624 daily in the latter part of the 1990s.

The figure represents an annual growth rate of 2.36 percent.

The latest figures were a sharp increase on the last census in 1995, which found that the Philippines had a population of 68.6 million with a population growth rate of 2.32 percent in the first half of the 1990s.

The statistics office did not give an explanation regarding the population increase or why the growth rate had suddenly gone up after decades of falling.

Population density rose to 255 people per square kilometer in 2000 from 229 per kilometer in 1995, the statistics office said in a statement.

The Philippine government's population control programs have been hamstrung by vocal opposition from Church officials in this predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

The government has been making available contraception methods to allow couples the choice of planning their families.

But the Catholic Church does not sanction artificial birth control and has actively campaigned against government programs to encourage the use of contraception.

In March, a government study warned that the Philippines must drastically cut its population growth rate in order to escape the cycle of perpetual poverty. *AFP*

'Lason' Awards launched

DAVAO CITY—Polluters of the beautiful Davao Gulf will be in for some nasty awards on Earth Day next year.

That's because environmentalists and civic groups here launched yesterday the "Lason (Poison) Awards" intended for firms and others responsible for polluting the once-pristine gulf.

The multisectoral Save Davao Gulf Foundation Inc. will hand out the awards in its effort to increase public awareness of the environment and stem the worsening condition of the gulf.

Commander Crisanto Agustin, 8th Coast Guard division chief and one of the awards' organizers, said that to determine the "winners," a year-long intensive study of the environmental practices and waste disposal systems of firms operating around the gulf would be conducted.

He said the foundation also intended to file charges against erring establishments before the Pollution Adjudication Board of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

John Largo, foundation executive director, said complaints from communities around the gulf would also be a major factor in choosing the "*lason* awardees."

Largo said the environmental situation in the gulf had become highly critical because of the indiscriminate dumping of waste by factories and plantation firms.

He said soil erosion caused by mining operations in Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley was also contributing to the deterioration of the gulf.

Agustin said some local government units and communities might also be guilty of polluting the gulf by dumping their garbage and untreated waste into it from their sewerage systems. *Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gloria says construction of San Roque dam to go on

SAN CARLOS CITY—Construction of the controversial San Roque multipurpose dam will continue despite the opposition of affected communities in Pangasinan and Benguet, President Macapagal-Arroyo said here yesterday.

"The San Roque dam is there. It is difficult to stop it," the President said when asked by residents of San Manuel and San Nicolas, the two affected Pangasinan towns, to halt its construction.

Ms Macapagal assured Pangasinenses, however, that the dam would be the "last" of the big irrigation projects in the country. She said the government would concentrate instead on communal irrigation systems.

The President arrived here for a multisectoral assembly and to campaign for the People Power Coalition senatorial slate that was on a two-day swing through Pangasinan.

She said the government would ensure the sanctity of the lives and rights of the people in the construction of public works projects that might affect them.

Started in 1996, the $1.2-billion San Roque dam project is more than 50-percent complete.

Ibaloi natives in Benguet are opposing its construction because they fear their land and their livelihood would be destroyed once it is finished in 2004.

On Thursday, six workers at the work site in San Nicolas were killed and four others injured when the cable of a moving platform they were riding on snapped, hurtling them some 50 meters into a tunnel.

Pangasinan Gov. Victor Agbayani has ordered Task Force San Roque to investigate the incident. The task force was formed to look into environmental and employment issues at the construction site.

Ms Macapagal met with multisectoral groups in the province and urged them to remain united to enable Pangasinan to keep its title of "food basket" of the Ilocos region.

She also inaugurated the P159.8-million Bugallon Bridge connecting agricultural towns in the province's third district.

Yesterday morning, the President visited Tadian, Mountain Province, where she handed out checks for forest management and electrification projects.

She also tried her hand at a local weaving machine that local weavers had been using for centuries to make the famous Cordillera blankets.

Mountain Province officials presented her with a *lamma* (blazer), *bakget* (belt) and wrap-around *tapis* (skirt) that she proudly put on. *Yolanda Fuertes with a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

No new settlements on Spratlys

KUALA LUMPUR—Five countries with overlapping claims on the disputed Spratly chain of islands in the South China Sea have agreed not to set up new settlements there, Malaysia's Foreign Minister said yesterday.

"We have this decision at the regional level that any dispute on overlapping claims on the Spratlys be settled through negotiation," the national Bernama news agency quoted Syed Hamid Albar as telling reporters.

Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines, Vietnam and China had agreed to maintain the status quo in areas already occupied, he said.

The Spratlys are in an area believed to be rich in oil.

Syed Hamid was commenting on news that Vietnam's ruling Communist Party was to endorse a strategy paper that appears to call for Vietnamese settlements on the islands.

Vietnam's 10-year socioeconomic strategy to be adopted by a party congress ending on Sunday calls for "population settlement in crucial regions, frontier areas... and islands in conformity with national defense and national security strategies."

Syed Hamid said the five countries were trying to draw up a code of conduct to ensure stability in the region.

"Although the code of conduct is still at the discussion stage, we have agreed on the need to have one to prevent problems," he added.

Bernama gave no further details.

Vietnam said on Friday that it was committed to negotiations on the disputed islands despite the expected endorsement by the Communist Party on the settlements on the Spratlys.

Vietnam is one of several countries staking a claim to islands of the archipelago, which are located in an area believed to be rich in oil.

The other claimants are Indonesia and Taiwan. *Reuters*

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PALACE RECEPTION

GMA meets with NDF negotiators

BY DONNA S. CUETO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo met chief negotiators of the National Democratic Front at a reception she hosted in Malacañang Friday night for members of the government and NDF peace panels as part of the preparations for the resumption of peace talks on April 27.

A Palace statement said the President held a 90-minute "cordial" meeting with Luis Jalandoni, who chairs the NDF panel, and Connie Ledesma.

Ms Macapagal expressed the hope that the negotiations would be successful and said the peace talks would look into the root causes of the three-decade-old conflict.

Jalandoni thanked the President for her decision to resume the stalled peace talks, noting that the success of the popular uprising that ousted scandal-tainted President Joseph Estrada and installed Ms Macapagal had improved relations between the government and the communists.

The NDF negotiators, who arrived in Manila on April 8 from their headquarters in the Netherlands, have been holding talks with their allies in preparation for the new negotiations.

They are to leave on Monday for Oslo, the Norwegian capital.

The Norwegian government sent its agreement to host the peace talks last Wednesday in a note verbale to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Government negotiators led by Silvestre Bello III are to leave for Oslo on Wednesday, April 25.

2nd substantive issue

Bello said both panels would be tackling the second "substantive" issue of social and economic reforms in the five days that they would be in Oslo.

Agrarian Secretary Hernani Braganza, who chairs the reciprocal working committee for the government panel, will lead the government side in the discussions.

His counterpart in the NDF panel is Julie Sison, wife of Communist Party of the Philippines founding chair Jose Ma. Sison.

Bello said talks to resolve the first three substantive issues—human rights and the international humanitarian law; social and economic reforms; and political and constitutional reforms—could take 18 months.

He said both panels had until six months to come to an agreement on each of the three issues.

The fourth and final substantive issue concerns the "end of hostilities and disposition of forces."

Bello said the two panels were about to finish the final discussions on the first substantive issue on human rights and international humanitarian law.

He said the most difficult part of the talks would involve the discussions on the "modality of implementation" of the points so far agreed on.

"But with more good will and good faith from both panels, we are confident that these peace talks would be successful," he said yesterday.

Bello said the NDF peace panel members were "okay." Otherwise, we would not be talking to them."

Guest list

Those who attended the reception, which was closed to the public, were Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita. Bello, Braganza, and other government panel members Chito Gascon, Rene Sarmiento and Karen Tañada.

The government and the NDF, the political arm of the CCP, held discreet informal exploratory talks in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on March 10.

Ironically, it was the day Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin, a hostage of the New People's Army, was killed in a chance encounter between government troops and his guerrilla captors.

The two panels then signed a joint statement on the "parameters" of the talks.

The NDF released a copy of the statement that listed as one of seven agreed points the resumption of formal peace negotiations on April 27 in a "mutually acceptable foreign neutral venue."

According to the NDF statement, the two sides also agreed to use 10 bilateral agreements concluded between Sept. 1, 1992 and, Aug. 7, 1998, as the framework for the resumption of the talks.

Prompt payment assured for teachers at polls

BY G. LACUARTA

THE ESTIMATED 480,000 public schoolteachers enlisted for poll duty on May 14 have been assured that they will be paid promptly, unlike in the past when it took as long as a year for their money to be released.

Commission on Elections Commissioner Rex Borra said the teachers' per diem of P800 for each day of poll duty would be released through election officers or disbursing officers in each city and municipality.

The payments will be made in cash.

Borra said the payments delay in past elections was caused by the system of channeling the funds through superintendents or district supervisors of the education department.

Payments in the past were also made by check.

The Comelec en banc has decided that the members of the Board of Election Inspectors would be paid in cash two days after the return of election paraphernalia and forms to the local Comelec offices.

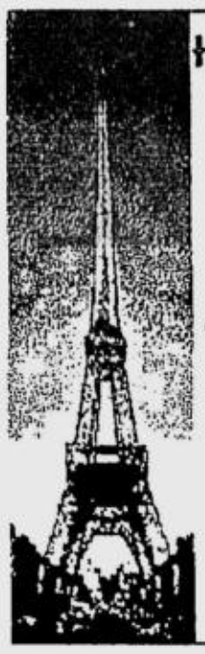
Some teachers have complained that they had to spend their personal money during election duty and got their payments long after the elections were over. Some of the delays involved as long as a year.

The Comelec en banc earlier raised the per diem of BEI members from the previous P400 to P800.

The poll body was also considering asking the education department to extend the teachers' leave credits beyond three days.

The BEIs are composed of three public schoolteachers each. The Comelec would thus need 702,000 teachers to staff the BEIs in 234,000 precincts nationwide.

Unfortunately, the country has only 480,000 public schoolteachers. Moreover, some teachers in so-called election "hot spots" have refused to do poll duty for fear of violence and terrorism.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Enrile hits 'Green rating'

REELECTIONIST Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile assailed the so-called "Green rating" survey conducted by the Earth Day Network 2001 where he was supposedly placed in the "black category" and ranking last among the surveyed candidates.

The report on the survey, which was published yesterday in the INQUIRER, cited Enrile's alleged ownership of logging concessions that were suspended for violations of Forestry Laws.

Enrile, a candidate of the Puwersa ng Masa, challenged environmentalist groups to check their facts before rating any candidate.

"They will see that my industrial tree plantation in Agusan del Sur is in fact a model for forest preservation," he said in a statement.

"For every tree that is cut, my company plants more than 25 trees to sustain the forest. We are now planting trees at the rate of about 60 hectares per month," he said.

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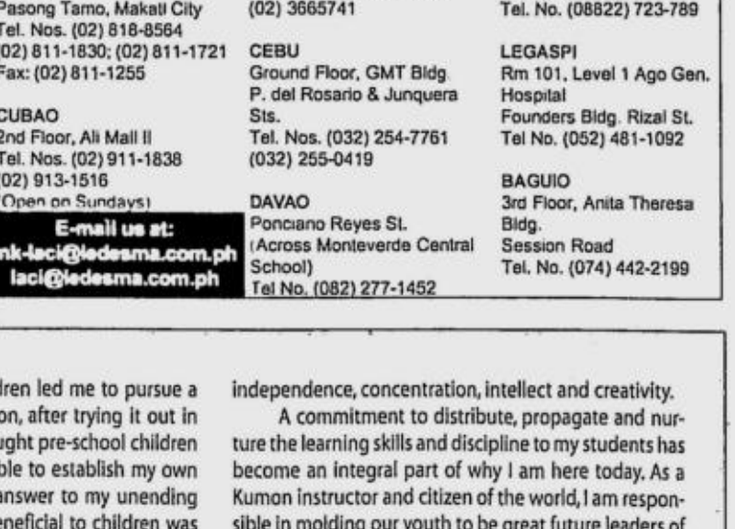

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Remains of Dacer, Corbito to be buried today

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

THE FAMILIES of slain PR man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and driver Emmanuel Corbito will bury their remains today even as questions continue to be raised regarding their abduction on Nov. 24 last year and subsequent murder.

One of these questions, aired yesterday during memorial services held in honor of the two men, was once again addressed to Panfilo Lacson, former chief of the Philippine National Police and now senatorial candidate.

Lacson has repeatedly denied involvement in the abduction-murders.

National Bureau of Investigation director Reynaldo Wycoco, after saying at a Senate inquiry on Thursday that Lacson's name had not cropped up in the Dacer investigation, again put the heat on the Puwersa ng Masa candidate.

Wycoco said Lacson should be asked to explain "the large-scale involvement" of at least three geographically separate units of the now abolished Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force in the twin murders.

He said "the Filipino people are not ready to believe" that they had acted on their own.

On Friday, PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza said Lacson could be held criminally liable under the principle of "command responsibility" because the 11 suspects so far held by authorities allegedly carried out the murders from the PAOCTF "central command" headed by Lacson's closest aides.

In an interview yesterday, Wycoco elaborated on Mendoza's views and even used a more loaded word: "conspiracy."

"The doctrine of command responsibility is basically an administrative concept. It is only considered an offense in administrative proceedings but in criminal jurisprudence, the nearest equivalent of this is conspiracy," Wycoco said.

He added: "If, for example, several elements of your command from different places in the country are involved—like in this (Dacer) case, the Luzon, Visayas and National headquarters—then perhaps the question must be raised as to why such a large-scale involvement."

Wycoco, who was one of the VIPs who attended the services held at the Santuario de San Antonio church in Forbes Park, Makati City, said that "perhaps the Chief PNP (Mendoza) should ask that from the former commander (Lacson) of that unit."

He said that while Lacson's name had never been mentioned by the suspects, "I would like to stress that we have not cleared anyone."

"Why such a large-scale involvement of PAOCTF units?" Wycoco said.

"I cannot believe, and perhaps the Filipino people will not be ready to believe, that the separate major elements of a major unit will do this crime all by themselves without anybody ordering them. While we are not saying that there is any mastermind in this case, this is an angle that is worth looking into," he said.

A three-hour "tribute" to Dacer, which included a video presentation of his life was held at the Santuario following a 1 p.m. Mass.

Chelen Reyes, husband of Dacer's daughter Sabina, announced that that the burial would be this afternoon at the Himlayang Pilipino in Parañaque City, after a 1 p.m. Mass at the Most Holy Rosary Parish in San Valley Subdivision.

In an interview later, Reyes said what would be buried was actually a "single urn" containing Dacer's and Corbito's charred bones and teeth recovered by investigators from their execution site in Indang, Cavite.

"Even in their last resting place they will be together," Reyes said.

Dacer's eldest daughter Emily, 88-year-old mother Emilia, and 2-year-old granddaughter Denise, were present at the service, as were Corbito's widow Nora and their children—Diana, 13; Norwel, 17; and Noralyn, 20.

Among those who condoled with the bereaved were Wycoco, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, Makati Rep. and now senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo, former National Security Adviser Jose Almonte, anti-crime advocate Karina Agarao, socialite Baby Arenas, and former first lady Amelita Ramos.

The speakers included Almonte, Dacer's friends from the media like Tony Lopez and Adrian Cristobal, a representative of his Bicol colleagues, an official of his Sun Valley homeowners association, and 24-year-old law student Rodolfo Hermogeno, one of Dacer's many "scholars."

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Advanced Computer Application	16 hrs.	Apr 25-28, MAY1-4 (9-1/1-5 pm)	Apr.23-26, 30- May 3 (1-5pm)	Apr 23-26,27 -30 (1-5/5-9 pm)
Web Page Design	16 hrs.	Apr 25-28 May 2-5 (9-1pm)	Apr. 28-29,May 5-6 (8-5pm)	Apr 24-27, MAY1-4 (9-1/1-5pm)
Photoshop	8 hrs.	Apr 25-26,28-29 May2-3 (9-1/1-5pm)	May 2- 4, 5-6 (8-12 nn)	Apr 24-25,26-27,28-29 (9-1/1-5pm)
PC. Troubleshooting & Maintenance	20hrs.	Apr 25-30,May2-7(9-1/1-5pm)	Apr 24-28 , 30-May 5(1-5pm)	Apr 25-30 May 2-7(9-1/1-5pm)
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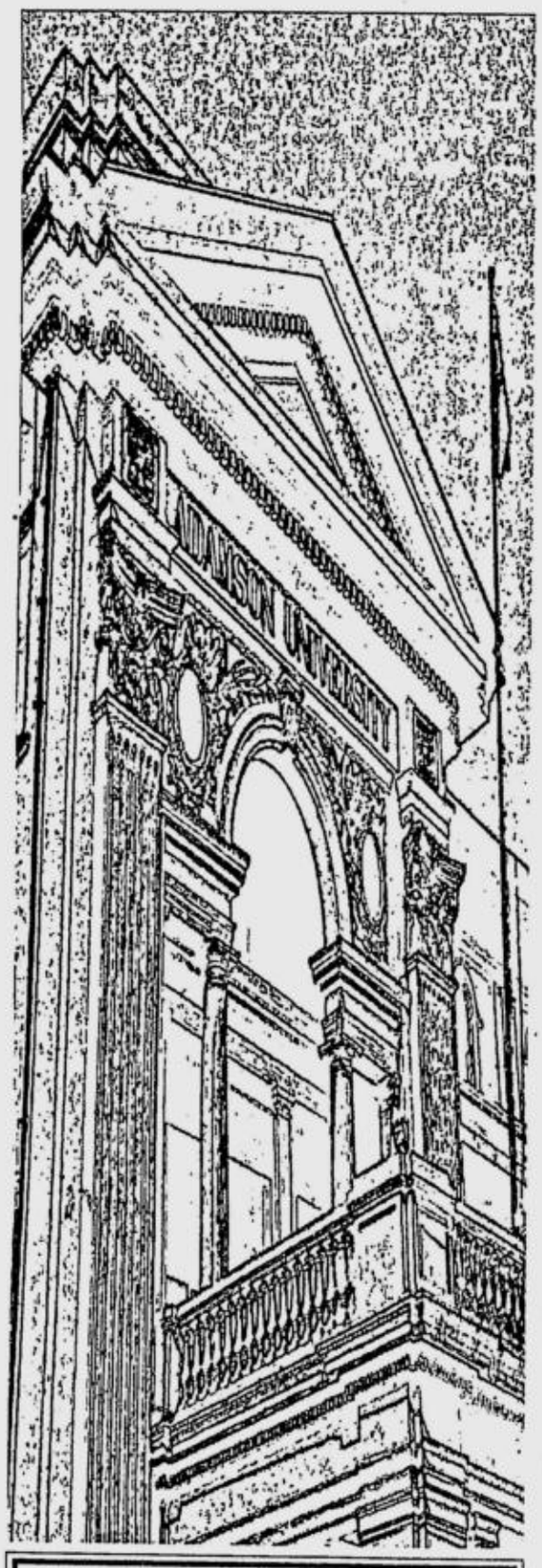

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GO-SIGNAL FROM COMELEC

Internet project to help voters find precincts

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

VOTERS in Metro Manila and key cities in the country will be able to locate their precincts on election day, May 14, by logging onto the Internet and clicking on maps that would show their voting centers and the nearest landmarks.

Commission on Elections Commissioner Rex Borra said Thursday the poll body approved pilot testing for the "Find Precinct" project in the four districts of Quezon City, after Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo said he found the system effective in providing fast information on the location of voters' precincts.

The Find Precinct project is being pushed by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, MIC Holdings and CyberSoft Integrated Geoinformatics Inc., which developed the Internet-based system of precinct mapping.

"This is a good opportunity being offered by a new technology," Borra said. "This will make our elections orderly."

The Comelec en banc, in a resolution issued last April 6, approved the Find Precinct project and directed the poll body's management information systems department to provide the Parish Pastoral Council with "read only diskettes" containing the list of the 35 million registered voters nationwide.

Philip Juico, MIC Holdings president and chief executive officer, said the Find Precinct website would be launched at the Internet address www.FindPrecinct.com and www.MapCentral.ph at no expense to the Comelec.

"MapCentral.ph will serve as the backbone for the proposed special site, which is expected to be up and running three weeks before the elections," Juico said.

Juico, former chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, said MIC Holdings is tapping CyberSoft to undertake the project with the Comelec.

CyberSoft will make available its collection of digitized maps and information on 1,580 cities and municipalities and 79 provinces in the country at its existing website at www.MapCentral.ph.

Juico said CyberSoft had digitized maps of the entire country. Its sources of data were, among others, agencies like the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria), the Department of Interior and Local Government, the National Statistics Office and the Comelec.

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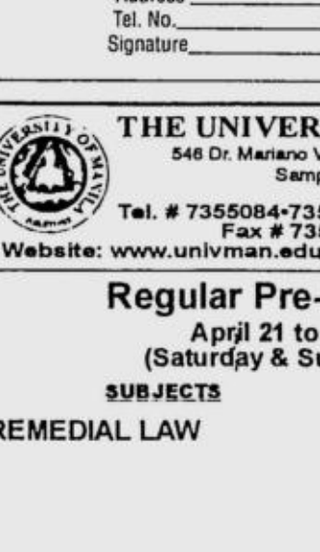

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CORY'S NO. 1

Former President Corazon Aquino and friends are all smiles as they endorse senatorial candidate Wigberto "Bobby" Tañada of the People Power Coalition at a recent get-together. According to Aquino, Tañada will be No. 1 on her list of senatorial candidates when she casts her vote on May 14.

Miriam's husband says SC ruling demolition job

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

SEN. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's husband said yesterday the timing of the Supreme Court's ruling on a 13-year-old graft case against her was meant to derail her bid for a second Senate term.

Narciso Santiago Jr., former interior undersecretary who is managing his wife's campaign, branded the high court's decision a "plain and simple demolition job, a politically motivated move designed to malign the senator and demolish her growing popularity nationwide."

The high court had ruled that Senator Santiago could not invoke her being a senator to evade the 90-day suspension meted out to her by the Sandiganbayan for violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, or Republic Act No. 3019.

Senator Santiago is running under the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa coalition, which is backed by toppled President Joseph Estrada.

"The release of this decision was clearly unjust," Narciso Santiago told the INQUIRER by phone.

"The Supreme Court has many pending cases. It is noteworthy that they decided a moot and academic case just to create an adverse effect on Senator Santiago," he said.

Asked why the tribunal would do such a thing, he said the high court had members who were "controlled" by the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Senator Santiago was one of the 11 senator-judges who allied themselves with Estrada during his Senate impeachment trial last December and January.

She remains a staunch supporter of the former president and the most vocal. She has vowed to work for Estrada's reinstatement if she wins a new Senate term in the May 14 elections.

Her husband said the high court's decision was ironic and unfair because the senator had been cleared of the graft charges by the Sandiganbayan.

The charges stemmed from the senators decision as immigration commissioner in 1988 to legalize the stay of 32 disqualified foreigners, most of them Chinese. A group of immigration employees filed the case against her.

"The Sandiganbayan, in its decision last year, cleared Senator Santiago of any wrongdoing," Narciso Santiago said.

He said that for her work at the Bureau of Immigration, the senator was presented with the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

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ON THE ROAD

Fatigue hits PPC candidates; Flavier plays resident doc

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

SAN CARLOS CITY—With three weeks to go before the May 14 polls, candidates of the People Power Coalition are bonetired from the nationwide campaign.

The biggest challenge for the coalition candidates is yet to come—a "caravan" around the country for 13 days starting next week as a way of wrapping up the campaign.

Saying he was the "resident physician" of the campaign, PPC candidate and reelectionist Sen. Juan Flavier said almost all of his fellow candidates had fallen victim to fatigue because of their hectic schedule.

"This is even worse, when you have to attend five rallies a day," Flavier, a former health secretary, told reporters shortly before the start of a campaign rally in Pozzorubio here, one of three rallies scheduled for the day.

The PPC senatorial candidates were expected to end their two-day campaign sortie in Central Pangasinan with a big rally in Dagupan City led by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Others like himself have also lost their voice at various points in the campaign, Flavier added.

Aside from the rallies, the PPC candidates also accept as many invitations as they can from schools, companies and civic groups.

Flavier said his "source of vigor" was coming from the "Life Pack" of Nuskin.

He said he found that fellow PPC candidate Joker Arroyo had become good at recharging himself from the tiring campaign.

Arroyo automatically retires to his car to take a rest or nap after a sortie, Flavier said, adding:

"So it's really a question of programming yourself."

Flavier said he was also making it a point to take a nap whenever they were on the road traveling to their next campaign destination.

He said he had been reminding those expressing tiredness at a sortie that the campaign would take just a few weeks more.

Saying that he was also the "Cardinal Sin" of the PPC, Flavier disclosed that aside from physical weariness, some candidates had started to become "discouraged" by the way they—and their chances of winning in the polls—were trailing in the public surveys.

"I tell them not to lose hope," Flavier said. "It needs hard work, but it's still doable."

The PPC is gunning for a 13-0 victory in the May 14 polls, but recent surveys showed that people were likely to vote only for eight of its candidates.

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Velarde accuser gets protection

DAVAO CITY—The lawyer who accused El Shaddai leader Mariano "Bro. Mike" Velarde of selling "outrageously overpriced" land to the government has been put under government protection, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said Friday.

Perez said it was lawyer Ernesto Francisco who had requested to be placed under the witness protection program.

Francisco reportedly said he received death threats immediately after filing the complaint of plunder against Velarde and ousted President Joseph Estrada last week.

"According to (Francisco), he received threats. So as of (Thursday), I have placed him under the witness protection program," Perez told reporters at the Royal Mandaya Hotel in Davao City.

Francisco has implicated Estrada and 15 others in the allegedly anomalous land deal that involved Velarde's Amvel Land Development Corp.

Francisco claimed that Velarde used his position as Estrada's spiritual adviser to sell parcels of land in Parañaque for the C-5 road project in 1999, at an overpriced rate.

He also claimed that the government lost some P828.6 million from the deal because the agricultural land that was originally bought for only P2,000 per square meter in 1997 was sold for P15,355 per square meter. *Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Abu Sayyaf gunmen slain in clash

ZAMBOANGA—An undetermined number of members of the Abu Sayyaf were slain in a clash with government troops on the southern island of Jolo as an assault on the notorious kidnapping band continued, the military said yesterday.

Army soldiers stormed an Abu Sayyaf hideout in Patikul town late Friday, resulting in the gun battle, military spokesperson Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias said.

"There were an undetermined number of rebels killed in the fighting," he told reporters here.

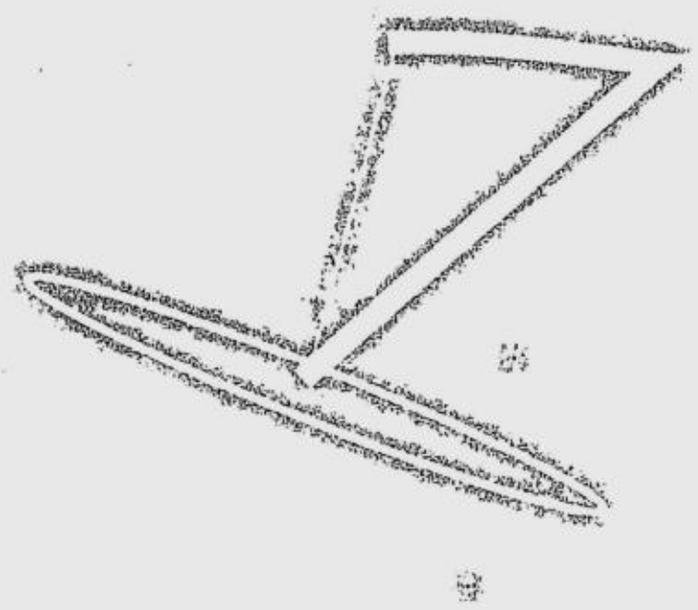
Covarrubias said there were no casualties on the government side.

On April 2, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a stepped-up assault on the Abu Sayyaf, an extremist group that gained international notoriety last year when it seized dozens of foreign and local hostages in a kidnapping spree that began about a year ago.

Most of the hostages were freed only after huge ransom payments were made.

The last of the Abu Sayyaf's foreign hostages, American Jeffrey Schilling, was recovered by government troops last week.

But the armed group still holds one hostage, Filipino scuba diving instructor, Roland Ullah. *AFP*



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OPINION

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 16 No. 133
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at **Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines** • Our new telephone numbers are **897-8808** connecting all departments; Editorial Fax **897-4793, 897-4794**; Advertising **897-4807**; Circulation **527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86** and **528-02-13**, Fax: **528-02-34**.

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Broad daylight

EDITORIAL

WHO ordered the hit on Bubby Dacer?

When the Department of Justice begins on Monday its preliminary investigation of the kidnapping and murder of the controversial publicist and his driver Manuel Corbito preparatory to the filing of the appropriate charges, the crime scandal would be exactly five months old. We hope it doesn't take the authorities another five months to identify and prosecute the mastermind. Or masterminds. "Plural," as Justice Secretary Hernando Perez surmised the other day.

Since the two went missing last Nov. 24, the public has followed the case very closely. Politics, inevitably, has colored the discussion. True, Dacer was a political player of some measure, if only because his clients included major politicians and public officials of various persuasions. He disappeared at the height of the *jueteng* scandal, the severest political crisis to hit the Estrada administration. And the investigation of his kidnapping and murder took off only under the new administration and in the middle of the campaign for the May 14 elections.

But the crimes demand to be solved at the soonest possible time not because of their political undertones, but in spite of them.

This much is already certain:

• The abduction took place at about 10 a.m. on Nov. 24, yet another busy Friday, near the intersection of Zobel Roxas Street and the South Superhighway in Makati City, in the presence of several witnesses.

• The Dacer family has accepted the findings of a forensic expert from the University of the Philippines that, based on dental records, the bodies found near a creek in Indang, Cavite, belong to the publicist and his driver.

• The victims, both the suspects in custody and the evidence say, were strangled and then burned, on the same day they were abducted.

• Four of the seven suspects who have already admitted to the crime (and 12 of the 20 suspects overall) are police officers, members of an elite police organization, the now-defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force. One of the suspects, SPO3 Mauro Torres, has admitted to the actual killings, which he said he committed using a telephone wire.

These facts alone explain the hold of the Dacer-Corbito kidnap-slay on the popular imagination: it was done by policemen to a powerful man with a lot of connections, and in broad daylight too.

That cliché, "broad daylight," is a measure of the horror with which the public has received the scandal, because it defines the brazenness of the acts.

If only for this reason, there is need for what the psychologists call closure. The crimes must not join the already long list of the unsolved, a sorry litany that includes the assassination of former Sen. Benigno S. Aquino Jr. But for the crimes to be truly solved, the authorities must bring those who ordered the hit before the bar of justice.

"We can say that the Dacer-Corbito murder case is solved," Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, told the INQUIRER last Tuesday, in an understandable bit of hyperbole. We say it isn't. Until the mastermind or masterminds are unmasked, the case will remain unsolved not only in a technical sense, but in the more important sense of public perception. Unsolved, unfinished, unexplained, the case will continue to stoke public unease.

We say also that, precisely because of the case's political undertones, it is best that the politicians get out of the way.

Some, or perhaps even all, of the senators who attended the Senate human rights committee hearing on the double murder case last Thursday wanted to find out what really happened. Let us give them the benefit of the doubt. But the overall exercise was unseemly at best and unproductive at worst.

It isn't only because a principal witness at the hearing, former PNP Director General Panfilo Lacson, is himself a candidate for the Senate. As PAOCTF chief, he held command responsibility for the actions of his men. It is also because, held in the middle of the election season, attended by senators up for reelection or actively involved in the campaign, the hearing generated a lot of publicity but no new leads. It was, to put it simply, not the best way to sift through the grisly evidence.

The National Bureau of Investigation and the PNP's CIDG have already done the spadework. The justice department is about to get started on the case. Unless the senators have evidence that leads to the identification of the masterminds, they should let the investigators and then the prosecutors do their job, and get out of the way.

Educate the electorate

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

LET me tell you youngsters how it was with political campaigns 50, 40 or even 30 years ago. They were definitely much more serious then than they are now, and less confusing.

To begin with, there were only two major political parties before—the Nacionalista Party and the Liberal Party. The LP was a breakaway group from the NP and was organized by Manuel A. Roxas to challenge Sergio Osmeña Sr. in the 1946 presidential election.

Control of the government seesawed between these two parties until Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972 and sidelined all parties except his own KBL. The 1987 Constitution later dismantled the two-party system and established the multi-party system, with a party-list system to complicate it.

The Commonwealth Constitution made possible a clear definition of the election issues and the specific platforms of the contending parties. In the 1947 plebiscite on the proposed Parity Amendment, for example, the Liberal Party strongly advocated the proposal, while the Nacionalista Party just as strongly rejected it.

On most other issues, however, like graft and nationalism, there was hardly any difference between the Nacionalistas and the Liberals. Both parties decried the first and extolled the second.

Official nomination by either of the major political parties was important because they enjoyed certain advantages under the old law like membership in the board of election inspectors. They were also entitled to exclusive representation in the Electoral Tribunals. The logistics of the Liberals and Nacionalistas also gave *saling pusa* parties and independent candidates little chance of winning.

The official candidates campaigned as a team. The posters and *tarjetas* of each candidate carried the full ticket from the President down to the councilors under the name of their common party. Party discipline required this solidarity although candidates for collegiate offices under the same banner were actually competing among themselves.

The current candidates now advertise only their pictures and names without mentioning their party and their party mates. The policy now is "to each his own" and, privately, "vote for only me." There's no need for party identification because the contest now is of personalities, not policies. Moreover, the major party contenders are a mix of unfamiliar splinter groups with separate or non-existent platforms.

The manner of campaigning has also changed. Before, the audience stayed up late to listen to distinguished *politicos* deliver thunderous speeches against everything. One had to be a spellbinder then to keep the people's attention or conversational and witty like Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson. The audience loved Lacson. He would have been president if he had not died young but happy.

One thing about Lacson and the other office-seekers then was that they never sang or danced for the voters. The candidates talked about serious problems, not the chacha. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo danced on stage instead of discussing the national economy. Erap serenaded the *mahirap* and the audience swooned.

Can you imagine Quezon soulfully intoning "Juramé" and Osmeña Sr. shuffling a soft-shoe dance? Or Tolentino singing a sad kundiman and Recto doing a slapstick routine? For eschewing such cheap gimmickry, decorous candidates like them would be sure losers in the coming elections.

The modern political audience is turned off by serious talk and wants a vaudeville. The voters expect Drilon to pirouette and Joker to croon and Miriam to display her famous tantrums. Tañada may preach nationalism, but who needs it? Magsaysay and Serge Osmeña speak about business, but the ordinary listeners are not interested. They would rather be entertained with song and dance than bored with facts and figures.

It's worse with the Masa candidates because they carry the stigma of their ousted idol. The people would rather see Sotto clown and Oreta dance than hear Angara apologize for Erap.

And speaking of Estrada, there is the disturbing report that "*hakot*" thugs hired and orchestrated by the Puwersa ng Masa are systematically stalking and heckling the People Power Coalition rallies to create the impression of Erap's continuing popularity. If true, it is another "low" in the current political campaign, already among the lowest in our history.

And it has become gaudier still with the increased influx of entertainers in the political arena despite our chastening experience with Estrada. Noli de Castro is the front-runner in the Senate race, and Rudy Fernandez is threatening no less than Speaker Feliciano Belmonte for the mayorship of Quezon City. Joey Marquez dares to run again in dirty Parañaque City. Star quality is now regarded as more important than academic endowments and real accomplishments.

Rogelio de la Rosa was the first actor to be elected to the Senate, but he had a college education and was not derided as a show-biz buffoon. More important, he discharged his office well and quietly, ending his government career as the *doyen du corps* in Cambodia. He could have been a better role model for the spate of mediocre performers who have chosen instead to emulate Estrada.

One thing is certain, and it is the superior political mentality of our people before, who listened to the candidates discuss the serious issues of the day and did not demand that they sing and dance for them like paid entertainers. It is the show-biz figures who have lowered the quality of our candidates and exploited the mindlessness of the *bakya* people who blindly vote them to public office.

The electorate has the opportunity to elevate the public service by choosing only candidates with proven intellect and integrity instead of the mere glitter and strut of the presumptuous actor. But we must first educate the electorate itself.

Balanced and fearless hearts

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

WHEN I was a seminarian, there was this girl who caught my eye. She was everything I wanted and dreamed of. Love of course wanted to be expressed, but I neither had the courage nor the opportunity. Finally, one summer day I had the chance to meet her and talk with her. With my best intro and with my best-modulated voice, I said: "Ah, excuse me. I'm afraid we have met before." She looked at me, smiled and said, "Ah, I'm not afraid!"

End of the story. End of summer love.

* * *

Fear is the greatest roadblock to peace. Jesus knew this, and that is why His first greeting when He appeared to His disciples was "Peace be with you," a greeting He repeated three times in today's Gospel (Jn. 20, 19-31). With His greeting of peace, Jesus assured His disciples that He had forgiven them for having abandoned Him. In effect, what He was saying was: "It's okay. I understand. I forgive you."

How assuring indeed to know that our God is a God who understands and a God who forgives. Whenever you look at your past, all you need to hear are the words of the Lord: "Peace be with you."

* * *

My friends Renato and Baby Revita texted me that the words "Be not afraid" occur more than 365 times in the Bible.

Wow! That's a good reminder for every day of the year and more! The Lord is not wanting in helping us overcome our fears. It is we who often hold on to our fears. Let go, and let God. The fact is that our fears and doubts are oftentimes worse than reality.

* * *

The greatest assurance from the Lord is that He is always with us. "Receive the Holy Spirit." Whenever you are tempted or afraid, whenever you feel weak or confused, just pray repeatedly the prayer "Come Holy Spirit."

* * *

Many of us are gripped not only by fear, but by doubts as well. These two negative feelings rob us of true peace. The best way to deal with doubt is to believe. Believe that you are loved by God no matter what. Believe that you are lovable. And, believe that those whom you love, love you! Don't give an inch to doubt. Give an inch, and soon your doubts will stretch for a mile.

* * *

It is interesting to note the transformation of the disciples from fearful prisoners to fearless missionaries. It is my earnest prayer that those who will be elected as public officials this May 14 will be filled with a sense of mission. I pray that they stay focused on their mission, not their commission, on public service, not self-service, on their constituents, and not on their own power and influence.

* * *

It is we, the voters, who need to be transformed first from our mediocrity and lukewarmness. We must go out of our easy and lazy attitudes. We who claim to be politically enlightened, must share our light with others. Let us not continue cursing the darkness and the stupidity of the unenlightened masses. That's right: better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.

* * *

As I was reflecting on today's Gospel, I thought I would propose it as the biblical foundation for the Philippine Daily Inquirer. To start with, Thomas was an inquirer. He sought out the facts. He was thorough in his investigation and inquiry, even if it meant offending the Lord Himself.

Note also how the other disciples broke the news of Jesus' Resurrection to Thomas. There was no hype, no hysteria and no sensationalism. Balanced news! Finally, they were empowered by the Holy Spirit, and moved by their fearless views!

All of us Christians should continue the inquiring spirit of Thomas and the balanced news and the fearless views of the disciples because we are consumed by the truth and are committed to our Lord and God, especially during this time in our beloved Philippines.

* * *

I would like to share with you the lyrics of a song that has given much courage and assurance all these years, especially when I was leaving for my mission assignment to South Korea way back in 1984:

"You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst. You shall wander far in safety, though you do not know the way. You shall speak your words to foreign men and they will understand. You shall see the face of God and live. Be not afraid. I go before you. Always come follow me, and I will give you rest. If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown. If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed. If you stand before the powers of hell and death is at your side, know that I am with you through it all...Be not afraid!"

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Give me, Oh God, a balanced, inquiring and fearless heart. Through it all, give me a trusting and loving heart. Amen.

Farewell to people power

CROSSCURRENTS

Antonio T. Carpio

THE SUPREME Court decision that legitimized Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ascent to the presidency through people power ironically removed the moral basis for ousting in the future a sitting president through people power. The Supreme Court announced that henceforth the doors of the courts would remain open should the Senate close its door to the impeachment of a corrupt president.

In early December last year, at the start of the impeachment proceedings against then President Joseph Estrada, three groups of private lawyers (CLEAR, CLAMOR and OUSTER) anticipated that a highly partisan Senate would vote to acquit Estrada. The nation would then be faced with a legal and moral dilemma: whether or not to accept a president so obviously guilty of high crimes against the people.

A Senate acquittal would close the only avenue under the Constitution to remove a corrupt president. An outraged citizenry would have no recourse but take to the streets in massive numbers. A standoff between Estrada and the people would invite military intervention, and probably result in the installation of a military junta. This would mean the abrogation of the Constitution.

The lawyers decided to force open another constitutional avenue to prosecute Estrada notwithstanding a Senate acquittal. If another constitutional avenue could be pried open, then resort to massive demonstrations in the streets might be avoided. Civil society would wait for constitutional due process to run its full course before flirting with military intervention.

To open another avenue, the lawyers filed a criminal case for plunder against Estrada before the Office of the Ombudsman. The plunder case directly challenged previous Supreme Court rulings, laid down in In Re: Saturnino Bermudez and Lecaroz vs. Sandiganbayan, that a public officer removable only by impeachment is immune from criminal prosecution while in office.

Bermudez held that "incumbent Presidents are immune from suit or from being brought to court during the period of their incumbency and tenure." Lecaroz even went further by holding that if impeachment "does not result in a conviction and the official is not thereby removed, the filing of a criminal action in accordance with law may not prosper."

Expecting that Estrada would raise presidential immunity to have the plunder case dismissed at the level of the Ombudsman, the lawyers prepared to bring the issue to the Supreme Court. The aim of the lawyers was to reverse the Bermudez and Lecaroz rulings and allow the criminal prosecution of Estrada while in office. But before the lawyers could file the case in the Supreme Court, the Senate voted to suppress the opening of the second envelope. Edsa II suddenly put an end to Estrada's presidency.

Behind-the-scene maneuverings during Edsa II, however, confirmed the worst fears of the lawyers. In the evening of Jan. 19, 2001, a few hours after the AFP hierarchy withdrew its support for Estrada, a group of high-ranking generals decided to install a military junta and call for snap elections within six months. The Constitution, in the meantime, would be suspended.

Fortunately, the plan of these adventurous generals fizzled out when AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes and Army chief Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva stood their ground in supporting the constitutional successor, Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who at that time had not yet taken her oath as president. That fateful evening the nation narrowly escaped being ruled by a military junta.

After the departure of Estrada from the presidency, the Ombudsman proceeded with the preliminary investigation of the plunder case against Estrada. The Ombudsman ruled that Estrada had lost his presidential immunity from criminal suit when he ceased to be president. Estrada responded by going to the Supreme Court, claiming that he was still immune from suit.

The lawyers saw this as an opportunity to revive their old dream of reversing the Bermudez and Lecaroz rulings. The lawyers joined the legal battle in the Supreme Court, forcefully arguing that the Constitution never meant to grant a sitting president immunity from suit for unofficial acts like the commission of the crime of plunder. Presidential immunity applied only to official acts done in the performance of the functions of the president.

The Supreme Court addressed squarely the issue raised by the lawyers, stating that "one of the bedrock issues for resolution" was whether, "on the assumption that petitioner (Estrada) is still President...he is immune from criminal prosecution." The Supreme Court could have dodged this issue since it had already ruled that Estrada was no longer the president. But this issue was obviously too important to await another case in the future.

In what should be a far-reaching decision, the Supreme Court upheld completely the contention of the lawyers by citing with approval two recent cases in the United States. Said the Supreme Court: "In the 1982 case of Nixon v. Fitzerald, the US Supreme Court further held that the immunity of the President from civil damages covers only 'official acts'. Recently, the US Supreme Court had the occasion to reiterate this doctrine in the case of Clinton v. Jones where it held that the US President's immunity from suit for money damages arising out of his official acts is inapplicable to unofficial conduct."

Clarifying the scope of presidential immunity under our Constitution, the Supreme Court held, after citing these two US cases, that "there are more reasons not to be sympathetic to appeals to stretch the scope of executive immunity in our jurisdiction." This means that no person in this country, not even a sitting president, is beyond the reach of our criminal justice system.

A sitting president can now be prosecuted criminally before, during or even after impeachment proceedings in the Senate. Coupled with the ease of initiating impeachment proceedings in the House of Representatives, where the signature of a mere one-third of its members can immediately send the articles of impeachment to the Senate, the president of the Philippines is now subject to the highest standards of public service.

In the future, even if a notoriously corrupt president were to control the Senate and block any attempt to impeach him, the courts would still be open to prosecute him and bring him to justice. Any failure by the Senate to live up to its constitutional duty is not likely to spark an Edsa III as long as the courts remain open to fulfill their own constitutional duty.

We thus bid a fond farewell to people power, until the next time **both** the Senate and the courts foolishly close their doors to a people seeking justice against a corrupt president.

US-China crisis: Who really blinked first?

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

THE UNITED STATES and China wanted to test each other's wills over the collision last April 1 of a US spy plane and a Chinese fighter jet over the South China Sea. China wasn't going to release the US plane's crew while the United States wasn't going to apologize for the incident. On April 14, China let the 24-member US crew go after the Americans said they were "very sorry."

Who blinked first?

It depends on who's talking. If you listen to the Americans, it was the Chinese who cried "Uncle!" But the Chinese insist they released the EP-3 spy plane's crew only after the Americans apologized. The Americans, of course, insist they did no such thing because they never used the word "apologize."

Such international incidents are a great spectator sport. They can be comical even though they could have serious consequences (how close were the two to war, for example?). This incident isn't over. Both sides are threatening retaliation.

According to US officials, Chinese jets had harassed American spy craft before and provided video footage to the press as proof. At the same time, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld admitted China had the right to monitor such US flights. But Rumsfeld insisted the United States didn't violate any territorial sovereignty because its craft was flying in international airspace.

Whether the US spy plane was in international airspace in this incident will be contested by China. And whether Chinese pilots were flying too close to US aircraft will also be subject to debate at current talks between the two nations.

We should remember, though, that US pilots are not incapable of "hotdogging," American slang for showing off by making daredevil stunts. Of course, the EP-3 is too bulky to do any crazy stunts but it could bump a smaller plane. Think about this: between a Chinese pilot and his American counterpart, who's likely to be a show-off, a bully, a "hotdog"?

In this incident, the United States starred with the usual tendency of Americans to take the hard line, be pushy and demanding. That's exactly how President George W. Bush approached the incident: he "demanded" the immediate return of the crew of the US plane after its emergency landing on Hainan island.

As we all know, Asians don't take kindly to being ordered around. Predictably, the Chinese didn't appreciate Bush's tone and demanded in turn that the Americans apologize for the incident. Both sides' hard-headedness prolonged the stalemate for 14 days.

The Americans, at a loss over how to handle the Chinese, soon softened their stance. After Bush's initially tough approach, the Americans became conciliatory, especially because their spies were still in Chinese hands. A flurry of bilateral talks ensued, centered on drafting a letter from the United States expressing regret. Finally, both sides agreed on the United States saying it was "very sorry" about the death of the Chinese pilot, whose plane crashed after the collision.

Here's what's comical about this. The Americans claimed victory in the test of wills because the Chinese couldn't force them to apologize. Indeed the word "apologize" doesn't appear in the US letter. For the Chinese, however, the words "very sorry" are synonymous to apologizing. Each side claimed victory. But that's not the end of the story .

The US spy plane is still in the hands of the Chinese, and the Americans want it back. China is demanding that the United States stop its surveillance flights in the area.

And politicians in Washington, from both the Republican and Democratic parties, are bristling with threats against China. They want to review the "most-favored nation" trade status the United States granted China. They will oppose China's bid to join the World Trade Organization and to host the Olympics next time around. They will sell arms to Taiwan just to drive China nuts.

And the US propaganda network has been in full gear, using international news organizations to make their case that China was at fault. A French wire story in these pages recently proved the American spin doctors had been working overtime. The Americans were clearly winning the media war. CNN, after all, is an American news outfit. And the Americans have more media contacts than the Chinese.

But this writer is willing to bet China will not take any of this sitting down. China has been flexing its muscles over the past several years, testing its adversaries' intestinal fortitude at every opportunity.

The United States may be the only remaining superpower and China is still a developing country. But one gets the feeling China hates to be pushed around. Backed against a wall, China will strike back. Countries with ambitions to be global players, like China, will continue to test the new US president's resolve, probe for weaknesses, and challenge him when they can.

As usual, though, the realities of geopolitics will prevail in this spy plane incident. The United States and China will realize they can't push each other too hard and too much and, indeed, that they need each other. US businessmen, for example, would caution hotheaded politicians in Washington to think about the large potential losses in trade with China.

In the end, the politicians, the ideologues and the generals will be pushed aside. And the diplomats, with the businessmen whispering in their ears, will take over.

Leandro V. Coronel lived in Washington, D.C. from 1969 to 1997.

Posters, bike rides and the environment

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TODAY is Earth Day, and as befits the occasion, environmental groups are expected to mark the day with all sorts of activities to remind the public about the need to protect the earth from further destruction.

But since this is also election season, let's focus on one issue that has environmental as well as legal and political implications. I'm referring to the posters and billboards that have now befouled our surroundings, especially in urban centers.

As election day nears, the ubiquitous posters have not only increased in number, they've also increased in size and are now so many layers thick in some spots that I wonder how metro aides are even going to begin cleaning up all that gunk. Every night, as "Operation Dikit" brigades make their rounds of the city, they also tear down posters that are already in place to make room for those of their candidates. The result? Ugly and wasteful litter all along our roads and public spaces. When the rains come and clogged drainage once again turns the city into one big cesspool, keep in mind the candidates who paid for much of the litter that ended up in our waterways.

Outside of urban centers, the posters and campaign materials are not so numerous, but ingenious campaigners have found other ways to foul up the environment. Motoring down provincial roads, one spots posters nailed to tree trunks or hung from branches, like bizarre fruit. Or else, as along Kennon Road, the mountainsides are themselves defaced, with the names of candidates painted on them. I wish Cordillera voters would imprint the names of these candidates on their minds and remember not to vote for those who'd allow our surroundings to be ruined in such a manner.

* * *

RECENTLY, I guested on the TV talk show "Katrina Legarda: By Demand" where the topic was the elections and how candidates are following (or breaching) election laws.

Foremost among Legarda's concerns were the laws on pasting propaganda materials. Her daughter had asked her not to vote for any candidate or party that had scattered posters all over the city, "but I'm afraid that if I heed her instructions, I'll have no one to vote for," said Legarda.

I've also previously featured in this space the seemingly lonely campaign waged by John Silva, an environmentalist as well as a heritage preservationist, to sic the law on candidates violating laws on the use and placement of posters. While sympathetic to Silva's cause, some members of the e-group where we belong remonstrated with John that posters shouldn't be the sole basis of choosing a candidate to support.

But as I've pointed out previously, if a candidate cannot even follow the law on such a simple matter, how can we be sure he or she will follow other laws—even those they craft and enact themselves?

I'm disheartened, though, by the revelation of former Comelec Commissioner Regalado Maambong that under the new Fair Elections Act, political parties and candidates have been given free rein to plaster their unsightly posters all over the place. "All the law says is that posters are allowed in public places, with access to these places to be distributed evenly among them."

All this has done, it seems now, has been to give campaigners a free hand to further uglify our already unattractive surroundings. If the environment ranks high among your priority issues, you might use the posters as an indication of how much importance a candidate really places on environmental protection. Does he or she think it is more important than winning? Or is the environment, like many other things, to be sacrificed for victory?

* * *

AN EARTH DAY activity worth supporting is the third "Tour of the Fireflies" which kicks off at the break of day today. The Tour is actually a fun, creative bike run around the metropolis that's meant to draw public attention to environmental issues. As the organizers put it, "Pedal Power is People's Power!"

Billed "A Citizen's Bike Ride Toward Livable Cities and Good Governance," the Tour kicks off from the Marikina Riverbanks Center at 7 a.m. The Tour, say organizers, "is a 50-kilometer bicycle ride around Metro Manila at an easy, controlled pace that allows everyone, even the occasional bike rider, older children and senior people to participate and have fun. The point is to tour seven cities of Metro Manila on a bicycle in a fun, social and safe setting with the support and camaraderie of other cyclists. People who participate wear costumes as they bike, making the 'Tour of the Fireflies' a sight to see. The Tour promotes cycling as an alternative means of transportation that is cheap to maintain, gives off no fumes, virtually noise-free, requires no expensive imported fuel and an efficient way to exercise the body."

* * *

WHY is the ride called "Tour of the Fireflies?" This is how the organizers explain the name:

"When was the last time you saw fireflies in the city?

"The fireflies have all fled because of air pollution. All of us, cyclists, walkers, runners, pedestrians, commuters, even those of us who ride cars, all of us who live and work, who make love and raise families in the city are in danger of suffering the same fate as pollution remains unabated due to discharges from motor vehicles and factories. We are also in danger of disappearing like the fireflies, but we can choose to fight for clean air and bring the fireflies back."

Whether by biking, segregating and recycling our garbage, or choosing our candidates wisely, we all have the means to save the Earth. We can do this in our own little ways, or massively, as in harnessing our votes to elect candidates who will support environmental causes in word and in deed. The worst alternative is to do nothing at all.

A mind-set for murder

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IT was shocking to hear how two policemen tried to explain their participation in the gruesome murder of PR man Bubby Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito. "We were misled," they said. "We were made to believe it was a legitimate operation." These killers were members of the police, specifically of the elite group within the police called the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force or PAOCTF. They were supposed to stop crime, not preside over it. How could they have been misled? They could not have possibly believed it was legal to kill suspected criminals in their custody. What they most likely meant to say was: they were made to think that Dacer and Corbito were drug dealers or kidnappers who deserved to be disposed of as quickly as possible instead of given a chance to defend themselves in court. Now they know they have killed innocent people, but they did not sound like they saw anything wrong with summary execution as a swift method of dealing with criminals.

Whence comes such a mind-set? I think it comes from the same culture that promotes blind obedience to power because it has failed to fuse existing moral sensibilities with the rationality of the law. Such a culture became the plaything of an authoritarian adventurer like Marcos who supplied the decisiveness needed to direct the accumulated energy of the unthinking mass in the military. It was also vulnerable to the designs of a shrewd actor like Erap, who knew which cultural buttons to press in order to achieve his narrow personal ends.

In general, we Filipinos still do not have an appreciation of the meaning of individual rights and freedoms, or for that matter of the obligations of citizenship. Our social order is still based on a tremendous fear and awe of power. We develop various ways of ingratiating ourselves with the powerful or of creating bridges to them. We endlessly take our cues from them and try to divine what would please them. The armor of personal morality or of character that we wear thinly in our daily lives crumbles in the face of orders or requests from the boss.

The basic concepts of right and wrong we learn in school or at home are no match against the urgent practicalities of power. We quickly affiliate ourselves with the winners and abandon the losers, except when we can still make use of them. The same energy that feeds the vocation for murder among the PAOCTF elements fuels the vocation for corruption among our public officials. From this perspective, nothing much distinguishes the murderers of Dacer and Corbito from the public officials who permitted Joseph Estrada to misuse or steal public funds. They are cut from the same fabric: the fear and awe of power.

The customary restraints—those elements in our traditional culture that the filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik calls the cultural brakes or "*preno*"—have failed to work in the complex settings of a society in the throes of transition. Notions of basic human decency and honor that made our ancestors noble beings in their own time have found no place in the soul of the modern Filipino. The loss of these traditional brakes should have paved the way for the inculcation of a new set of norms appropriate to modern nationhood. Unfortunately, as someone wrote, "the old is dying but the new cannot be born."

We grope for steady rules and principles that will light our way in a time of great change, and we only find ourselves repeatedly in the thrall of power. Picture the top officials of the Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) under Estrada. One is hard-pressed to understand how these otherwise highly educated individuals could so allow themselves to be cowed or manipulated by a seemingly simple-minded president as to gamble away precious pension funds belonging to ordinary workers and employees. Were they misled? Were they made to believe it was a legitimate operation?

If we could understand the thought process that led Carlos Arellano of the SSS and Federico Pascual of the GSIS to justify to themselves the use of public pension funds for the purchase of shares of stocks in companies belonging to Erap cronies, we should have no trouble understanding the minds of Dacer's killers. Only a thin line divides licensed murder from licensed plunder. The same principle is at work in both instances: the word of the boss is the law.

Indeed if we could figure out the kind of thinking that allows the senatorial candidates of Puwersa ng Masa to close their eyes to the crimes of Estrada, we should have no problem understanding the lumpen-poor who continue to embrace Erap as their idol. The only difference is that the former cannot see because they are morally blind, whereas the latter cannot open their eyes because they are hungry.

By now it should be obvious that our problems go beyond murderous policemen and plunderous presidents. They go into the very heart of our way of life as a nation. Unable to find comfort in past achievements, we also cannot see beyond the present. We have trouble measuring ourselves against an ideal because the ideal remains elusive. We are too busy trying to survive we have not had time to debate the kind of nation we want to be.

* * *

Comments are welcome at rdavid@pacific.net.ph

THEY SAID

Job to do

"I've got a job to do. The president asked me to do it. I'll do it as long as he's comfortable having me do it and I feel like I can make a contribution."
—US Vice President Dick Cheney

No party ideology

"I firmly believe that the multi-party system has sucked all ideology out of all the parties."
—Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Comments can be sent to votersvoice@inquirer.com.ph

JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR., Editor

Voter's Voice ELEKSYON 2001

INQUIRER GMA

Earth Day Network rates 'green' Senate candidates

AS PART of the observance of Earth Day, the INQUIRER is publishing the preliminary "green rating" of senatorial candidates by the Earth Day Network. A "Green Electoral College," consisting of heads of environmental non-government organizations, ecologists, sociologists and representatives of various sectors, graded the senatorial candidates. **(Below in alphabetical order.)**

A questionnaire related to the "green rating" was sent to each candidate. But the ratings were based not only on the candidates' answers about the environment. The network rated according to 10 criteria: Candidate's knowledge of environment issues; personal action to advance the cause of the environment such as sponsorship of bills or support for environment projects; support for groups in the course of one's work for the environment; record in promoting social equity; commitment to people empowerment; advocacy of principles with courage; inspired leadership in the pursuit of environment causes; and involvement in destructive actions against the environment and the economy, whether directly as in plunder, or indirectly as in sponsorship of bills detrimental to the environment.

Also considered were personal lifestyle (profligate or in keeping with one's income) and integrity in pursuit of his/her political agenda or advocacy.

Angara , Edgardo *(Red, 46 points)*

- Trustee, International Center for Living Aquatic Resources (1984-85)
- Openly supported the field trials and commercialization of genetically 2modified organisms (GMOs) while he was the agriculture secretary.
- *No response to questionnaire sent by the Earth Day Network.*

Arroyo, Joker *(Light Green, 80)*

- Supported the fight against the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant and the anti-nuclear weapons and bases campaigns.
- Anti-martial law activist and human rights advocate.
- Co-founded the Free Legal Assistance Group and Mabini.
- The Philippine Bar Association gave him the "Most Distinguished Award for Justice" and described him as "a man beholden to no one except to his country."
- Statement of Assets and Liabilities has remained the same since he entered public service.
- *No response to questionnaire*

Chato, Liwayway *(Red, 64)*

- Worked with the Citizens Legal Aid Society to help poor victims.
- Launched a crusade against big tax evaders as internal revenue commissioner.
- Member of Couples for Christ.
- *No response to questionnaire*

De Castro , Noli *(Red, 47)*

- Legislative agenda includes (1) incorporate environmental education in the high school curriculum; (2) enact a law converting the Sangguniang Kabataan into youth environmental corps in every barangay; (3) farmer's protection against globalization; (4) worker's protection against globalization; and (5) fight against corruption.
- Consider garbage, flooding due to forest denudation, reforestation, water and soil pollution by irresponsible mining, declining fish catch resulting from marine habitat destruction, squatter problem and air pollution as existing concerns.
- Considers the effects of El Niño and La Niña and the need for solid responses to global warming as emerging concerns.
- Goes for waste segregation; stiffer penalties against mining operators; funding for environmental projects to be clearly defined in the national budget.
- Supports agrarian reform.
- "Community-based forest management may be the key to the reversal of forest denudation. This should be combined with selective log ban and sustainable forest management."
- "Agrarian reform must recognize ancestral domains."
- Says that he observes "clean living: no smoking or drinking." Segregates waste at home and recycle paper in the office.
- Allegedly blocked the showing in Channel 2 of an episode of "Magandang Gabi, Bayan" on the biopiracy involved in the invention of erythromycin, which came from soil samples collected in Iloilo by Dr. Abelardo Aguilar in the 1950s. His reason: pressure from local executives of Eli Lilly, which manufactured erythromycin as Olioticyn and Ilozone.

Defensor Santiago, Miriam *(Gray, 23)*

- Platform has nothing on environment but seeks to "design productivity incentive scheme for government employees" to stop graft and corruption and to "mobilize out-of-school youth, as well as school youth on vacation, to participate in construction of low-cost mass housing."
- Supported the Agricultural Modernization Act and the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.
- Filed bills such as "Environmental Protection for Children Act" and resolution to investigate the toxic waste at Clark and Subic.
- Boasts of being a graft-buster but supports ousted President Joseph Estrada.
- *No response to questionnaire*

Drilon, Franklin *(Light Green, 77)*

- Platform includes facilitating credit access for farmers and fisherfolk.
- Principal author of the law "Prohibiting the Manufacture, Importation, Distribution, and Sale of Laundry and Industrial Detergents Containing Hard Surfactants."
- Co-authored the Clean Air Act, Magna Carta for Small Enterprises, Indigenous People's Rights Act, and Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act.
- *No response to questionnaire*

Ejercito Estrada Luisa *(Gray, 24)*

- Initiated projects such as "Tubig Pangkalusugan at Kabuhayan" and Backyard Flower and Vegetable Gardening.
- Says "pollution of the air, water and environment must be the most critical problem we are now facing"
- Active in the clean up and revival of the Pasig River.
- Believes that "forests belong to those who live on it and in it. So are the fisheries. Ancestral domains must be recognized and given back to the tribes but on a community and not individual basis."
- Goes for the segregation, recycling and composting of solid waste (but did not say that she does these at home).

Enrile, Juan Ponce *(Black, 14)*

- Known to own/have owned logging concessions that were either cancelled or suspended for violations of forestry laws.
- One of the architects of martial law.
- *No response to questionnaire*

Flavier, Juan *(Green, 85)*

- Co-authored the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act and Clean Air Act.
- Main Senate supporter of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.
- Filed a bill that will require labeling of GMOs.
- Former president of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM).
- *No response to questionnaire*

Herrera, Ernesto *(Red, 65)*

- Spent most of his professional life as secretary general of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines.
- Member of the Agrava Fact-Finding Board.
- Reportedly supported *muro-ami*, a fishing method that employs boys as divers and destroys corals.
- *No response to questionnaire*

Honasan, Gregorio *(Gray, 33)*

- Legislative priorities: passage of the Land Use Act and Clean Water Act and full implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.
- Strongly supported RA 8368 which repealed PD 772 that criminalized squatting, RA 8532 which increased the Agrarian Reform Fund to P50 billion, Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Management Act.
- Led coup attempts against the Aquino administration.
- *No response to questionnaire*

Lacson, Panfilo *(Gray, 27)*

- Platform includes passage of National Land Use Policy, Clean Water Act, creation of an Environment Protection Agency, and National Forest Protection Act.
- Considers waste disposal, polluted bodies of water and global warming/air pollution as the most critical environmental concerns.
- Supports making household waste segregation mandatory and for school programs to concentrate on waste management.
- Says that as a police officer, he led operations against illegal loggers and fishers.
- Implicated in the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case.
- On recognition of ancestral domains: "these places are a part of our history and serve as a mirror of our past. We need to preserve them for posterity. They can even contribute to the country's tourism industry.
- Segregates waste at home and uses organic waste as fertilizer in his backyard in Cavite.

Madrigal, Jamby *(Gray, 28)*

- Active in socio-civic and charitable institutions.
- A director of Conservation International.
- Stand on issues: (1) residents should be encouraged to help manage their own environment; (2) need for safety nets for GATT/WTO; (4) encourage active participation of women; and (5) more programs for indigenous peoples.
- A director of Solid Cement Corp. and Land Quarry Aggregates Corp.
- *No response to questionnaire*

A score of 81 to 100 makes a candidate Green or environmentally committed; 70 to 80, Light Green or environment friendly; 45 to 69, Red or his /her program needs to be scrutinized more closely; 20 to 44, Gray and should be cause for alarm for prospective voters; below 20, Black, deserves censure

(Earth Day Network did not rate Homobono Adaza, Reuben Canoy, Oliver Lozano, Manuel Morato, Moner Bajunaid, Rod Navarro and Ombra Tamano.)

Magsaysay, Ramon Jr. *(Red, 65)*

- Co-authored RA 8970 or Ban on Hard Surfactants and Magna Carta for Small and Medium Enterprises.
- *No response to questionnaire*

Mercado, Orlando *(Red, 60)*

- Platform includes conservation of environmental resources.
- Headed the committee on environment and natural resources during his second term as senator in 1992.
- Chaired the Green Coalition.
- Represented Congress in the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
- Advocated for a total ban on commercial logging.
- *No response to questionnaire*

Monsod, Winnie *(Light Green, 78)*

- Member, People's Fact Finding Committee on Agrarian Reform (1991-92).
- Chair, Philippine Human Development Network, which also works on environmental matters.
- Platform focuses on poverty, education and fighting graft and corruption.
- *No response to questionnaire*

Osmeña, Sergio III *(Light Green, 70)*

- Founding director, Justice for Aquino Justice for All.
- Director, Movement for a Free Philippines (1978-88).
- Platform includes income security for farmers and fisherfolk, and justice and compensation for victims of toxic wastes in former US bases.
- One of the "Fearless Five" who opposed the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.
- Laws authored, co-authored and/or sponsored: Safeguard Measures on Imports to Protect Agriculture, Additional Benefits to Farmers thru the Philippine Crop Insurance System, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management, Promotion and Assistance to SMEs, Indigenous Peoples Rights Act, Clean Air Act, and Solid Waste Management Act.
- Authored the Plant Variety Protection Bill which allows breeders to apply for Plant Breeders Rights without due regard to farmers' rights to seeds.
- Openly declared support for field trials and commercialization of GMOs in a Senate hearing in March 2000.
- *No response to questionnaire*

Pagdanganan, Roberto *(Red, 69)*

- "Galing Pook" Hall of Fame member (winning four years in a row for outstanding local governance).
- *No response to questionnaire*

Pangilinan, Francisco *(Red, 65)*

- Collaborating lawyer, Free Legal Assistance Group.
- *No response to questionnaire*

Puno, Ricardo Jr. *(Gray, 36)*

- Legislative priorities include: (1) full implementation of the agricultural modernization program; (2) pass legislation that will resolve the problem of deforestation but allow reasonable commercial activities to ensure the welfare of those dependent on wood-based industries, upland dwellers and other affected sectors; (3) push for the full implementation of the Clean Air Act; and (4) promote sustainable development.
- Considers the following as the most critical environmental concerns: forest denudation, depletion of marine resources, air and water pollution, and unbridled conversion of farmlands to non-agricultural uses.
- His solutions include: full implementation of the Clean Air Act and the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act; push for a Land and Water Use Act; clean up of rivers; push for funding for forest plantations, social forestry programs, and "protected wildlife management boards" (note: should actually be "protected area management boards"; DECS to incorporate waste management in the curriculum; promote rational commercial use of forests.
- Supports completion of land reform program and curbing of unbridled conversion of agricultural lands for commercial purposes.
- All members of his family use unleaded gasoline, segregate garbage and discourage use of non-biodegradable products.

Rasul, Santanina *(Red, 60)*

- Organized the Bantay Dagat, Inc. and Bantay Dagat Movement.
- Authored RA 6949 which declared March 8 as National Women's Day; RA 192 which seeks to remove any remaining discrimination against women and mandates the government to allocate funds for women's projects.
- Focuses on coastal concerns and urban waste management and sees the link between the two (waste eventually polluting coastal marine resources); shows concern for the marginalized fisherfolk.
- Agrees that "agrarian reform requires a redistribution of political and economic power so that social justice and peace can be created.
- Supports community-based forestry and claims original authorship of the Ancestral Domains Act.

Recto, Ralph *(Red, 65)*

- Principal author and sponsor of the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act.
- Platform includes combating poverty and providing livelihood projects for basic sectors.
- *No response to questionnaire*

Tañada, Wigberto *(Green, 90)*

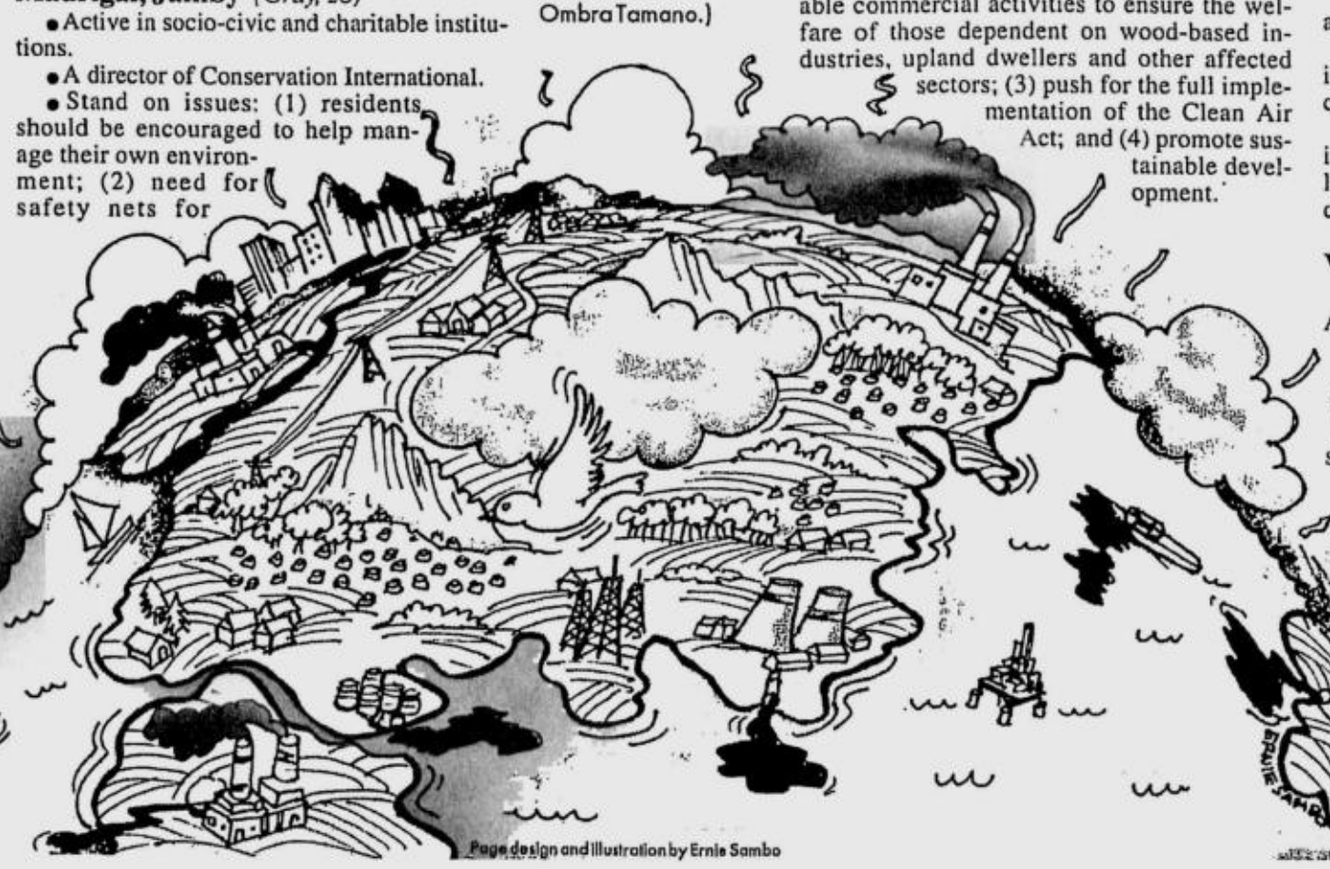
- Anti-nuke activist, president of PRRM
- Authored and/or sponsored bills on: strengthening the Commission on Human Rights, democratizing control and access to fishery and aquatic resources.
- Supported the rights of indigenous peoples
- Supported environmental actions through inquiries into Calaca Coal Plants I and II.
- Sponsored a House bill on mandatory labeling of GMOs.
- Sponsored House resolutions calling for investigation of the biopiracy activities of the National Museum of the Philippines.
- Committed to push for a Total Commercial Log Ban, refile a National Land Use Policy Bill, press the United States to take responsibility for the toxic wastes in their former bases, support for the treaty on Persistent Organic Pollutants, promote a right-to-know program so that communities are informed of pollutive capacities of industries.
- Supports NGOs in their environmental advocacy and efforts of a community in Casispalan, Tagkawayan to get a community-based forest management agreement.
- Calls for the implementation of a debt-for-agrarian reform-swap program.
- Strongly advocated for creation of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Councils.
- Does not play golf because of its negative impact on the environment, uses unleaded gasoline and practices waste segregation and recycling at home.

Villar, Manuel Jr. *(Red, 65)*

- Supports the Clean Air Act, Chainsaw Act, National Cave Protection Act, Coastal Environmental Program, Forest Management Centers and preservation of mangrove forests.
- Platform includes " environmental responsibility in all policies and actions, thinking globally but acting locally".
- *No response to questionnaire*

Yasay, Perfecto *(Red, 56)*

- Platform includes (1) agricultural reforms to maximize productivity; (2) transparency and good governance for economic growth; and (3) women, urban poor, fisherfolk, indigenous communities and other marginalized sectors assured of social justice and more jobs.
- *No response to questionnaire*



Page design and illustration by Ernie Sambo

The WORLD

Peru air force plane downs aircraft carrying US missionary, her baby

LIMA—An American missionary and her baby were killed Friday when a Peruvian military aircraft made an apparently mistaken attack on their light plane and forced it down in Peru's Amazon jungle, officials said.

In a statement, the Peruvian defense ministry expressed "deep regret" for the shooting down of the plane, explaining the air force pilot had confused the Christian missionaries' aircraft "with a plane of narcotics traffickers."

An official with the US-based organization the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE) said Veronica Bowers, 36, and her seven-month-old daughter Charity were shot and killed during the mid-air attack in Peru's remote Pebas region.

Her husband and son, also on the plane, escaped uninjured.

The couple had lived for nearly 10 years in the Amazon region of Peru, working as missionaries, according to the official.

The plane, operated by the ABWE, was registered and clearly marked, and had filed a flight plan, according to E.C. Haskell, executive administrator of mission relations for ABWE, based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

"Everything was legal about the flight," he said, confirming that the pilot, Kevin Donalson, an 18-year veteran with his organization, had been shot in a leg. "He radioed for help, that's how we first knew there was a problem.

"He (Donalson) said an air force interceptor approached the plane then began to fire on them. There was no radio contact with them (the air force plane)," Haskell said.

After he was shot Donalson temporarily lost control of the sea-plane, but managed to bring it under control and land it on the Amazon.

The mission plane was "almost an hour away" from Iquitos, and had just requested permission to land when the incident occurred, Haskell said, adding that the US State Department had told him that it had launched an inquiry into the incident in conjunction with the Peruvian military.

Haskell said the State Department was to arrange transportation of the victims' bodies back to the United States, and would also take charge of flying Bowers and his son home to the United States, possibly Saturday.

The State Department also expressed "regret" over the incident.

"Apparently, the Peruvian pilot had mistaken the light aircraft for one carrying contraband drugs," a US State Department official said in Washington.

"We deeply regret this tragedy and are in the process of determining the extent of loss of life and injury to the passengers and crew," the official added. *AFP*

Kuwait high court rejects plea to give women political rights

KUWAIT CITY—Kuwait's highest court on Saturday rejected a petition to grant full political rights to the emirate's disenfranchised women, in the sixth such ruling in less than a year.

The case was brought before the constitutional court by two women activists, Lowlowa al-Mulla and Hind al-Shalfan, who sued the interior ministry for refusing to enroll their names as voters in February 2000.

Chief Justice Abdullah al-Issa, presiding over the five-judge panel, read the ruling and dismissed the case.

The constitutional court, whose verdicts are final, has in the past nine months rejected five similar cases, all on procedural grounds.

The electoral law states that only men have the right to vote and run for public office. *AFP*

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Unpopular Mori bids farewell

TOKYO—Japan's unpopular Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori received a hero's welcome at a cherry-blossom viewing party Saturday in a finale to his tenure cut short by a run of gaffes and scandals.

Most of the blossoms had fallen to the ground at the Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, a scene which can evoke an image of ephemeral life in Japanese minds, as the annual event was held one week later than usual.

"I feel very thankful because you still called me 'Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Prime Minister' as I kept walking," Mori quipped as he addressed the gathering on a rostrum after an hour-long stroll through the sprawling garden featuring 1,500 cherry trees.

"I won't be prime minister after the second half of next week. But I wish you will continue guiding me just as Yoshiro Mori," he said.

Some 8,000 invited guests from the business, cultural and sporting community formed a long and thick aisle of people to welcome Mori.

Ever smiling

They surged ahead against a wall of security police, shaking hands with an ever-smiling Mori and taking snapshots of the stocky 63-year-old rugby-playing premier.

"Prime Minister Mori, you have done a great job. You will be rated high in history," a middle-aged man shouted several times.

The amicable atmosphere, perked up by sips of sake rice wine, belied lowly popular support for Mori, which has fallen below 10 percent since he took office a year ago to replace a dying Keizo Obuchi.

His ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has forced Mori to step down as its president, a post coupled with the nation's premiership due to the conservative party's dominance in parliament.

Mori's term as the party chief would have lasted until next September but the LDP wanted him out now as he was considered a liability in July's upper-house elections, which threaten to further erode the party's strength. *AFP*

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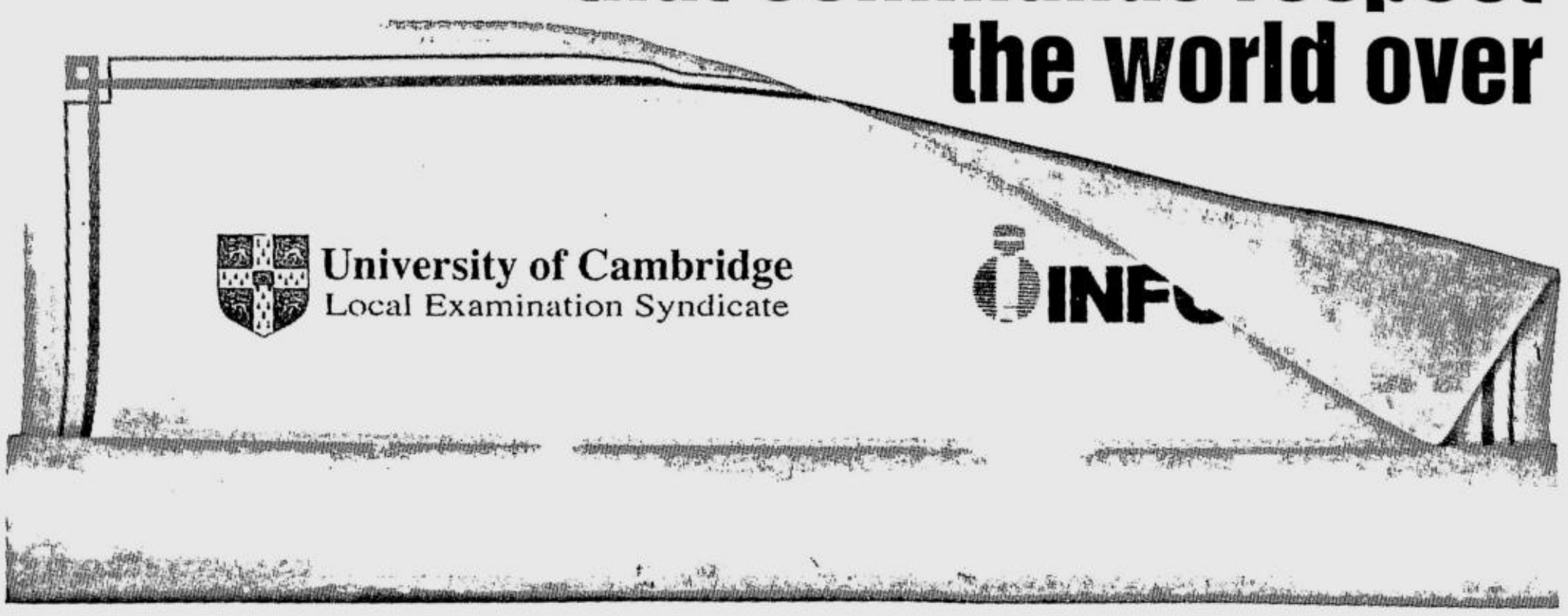

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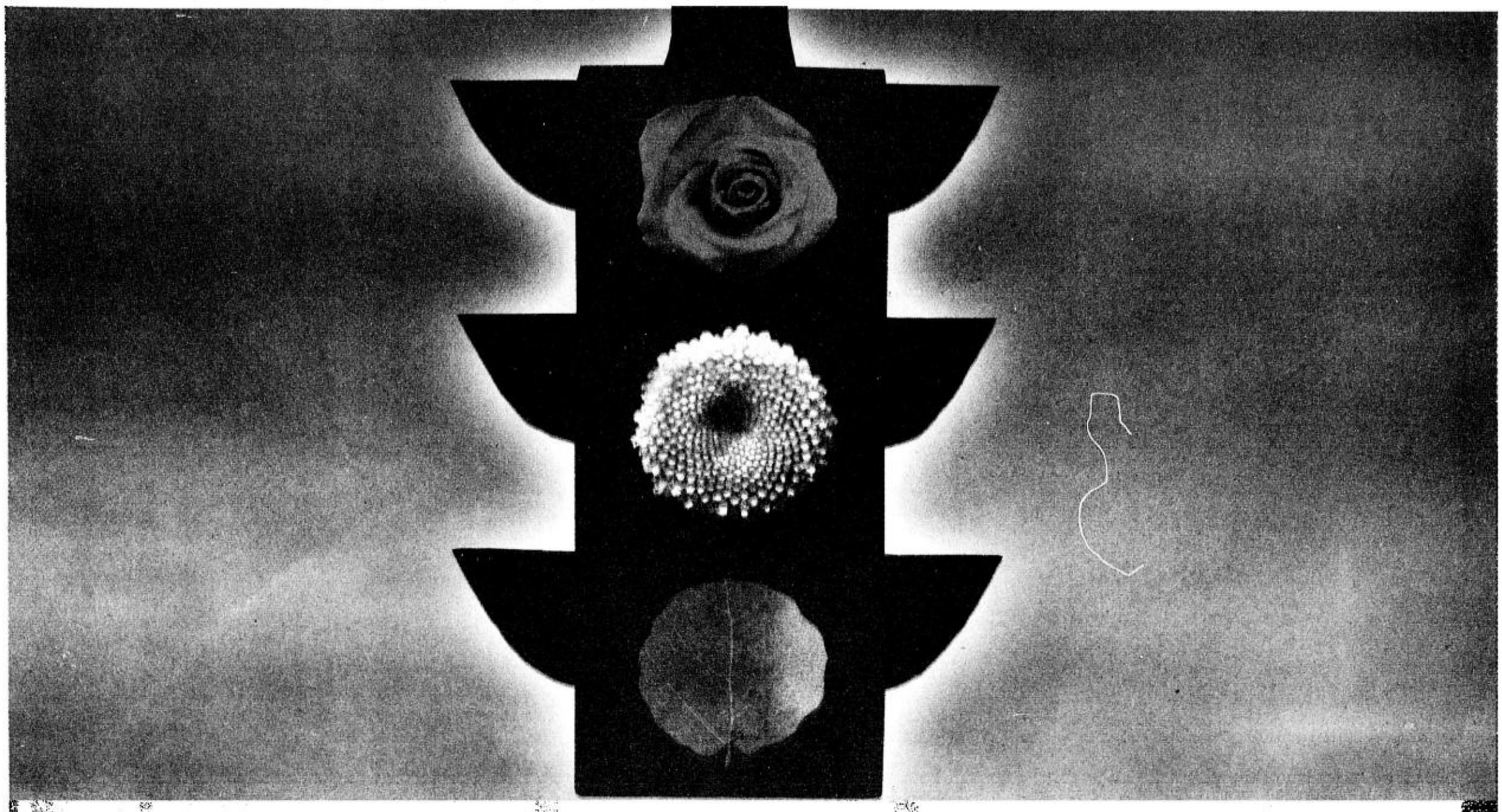


PETRON FUELS THE DRIVE FOR CLEANER AIR.

PETRON'S environment FUELS

EARTH MONTH 2001

Part of Petron's contribution to caring for the environment is its active participation in the celebration of Earth Day and Earth Month. This year, Petron Corporation and Petron Foundation join hands with a nationwide network of volunteers in being one with the earth through a host of activities in April.

SMOKE EMISSION TESTING

Throughout April at selected Petron Service Stations, at the CCP Complex and at the Malacañang grounds on April 22 and The Fort on April 23

As a prime mover for cleaner air, Petron is spearheading efforts such as Smoke Emission Testing. Together with ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Usok, Petron is conducting Free Smoke Emission Tests to vehicles at service stations in strategic areas in the country. This allows motorists to simply drive up and have their vehicles checked, with a friendly advice on how their cars can emit cleaner air. Petron employees and company friends will also be encouraged to voluntarily submit their vehicles to a periodic review of the quality of their smoke emission.

Petron is also taking part in a Smoke Emission Testing and Engine Diagnostics on April 22 at the Folk Arts Theater in partnership with the Earth Day Organization, and at the Malacañang Palace grounds, which will be graced by H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. On April 23, it will join Bonifacio Foundation in its Smoke Emission Testing at The Fort.

"WALK FOR AIR"
CCP Complex
April 22

In a show of solidarity with Earth Day celebrators, Petron joins the "Walk for Air," a fun walk around the CCP Complex. Led by the Earth Day Network Philippines, "Walk for Air" highlights the benefits of cleaner air and the importance of a healthy environment.

Art for the Environment
Petron Kids' Summer Camp Art Lessons
April 18-May 30

Petron imparts valuable lessons on the environment to the youth through art lessons for the children of its employees. Through a month-long art workshop, Petron kids not only learn the rudiments of painting but also get an additional education on subjects such as caring for Mother Earth.

April 22
Brgy. Tugasnon, Alubijid, Misamis Oriental

Petron personnel in Misamis Oriental will support a Kids' Art Contest with the theme "Borrowing Earth for the Future Generations". Indigenous local materials will be used to express the children's understanding of the theme.

Puno ng Buhay
Sunday, April 22
Brgy. Tandulilid Ormoc City, Leyte and Brgy. Tugasnon, Alubijid, Misamis Oriental

Petron continues its efforts in greening the countryside through its reforestation project called Puno ng Buhay (Tree of Life). Beginning last year with tree planting activities in the North and South Luzon Tollways and in the La Mesa Watershed, Puno ng Buhay reaches farther out this year. In Ormoc City, Leyte, officers and personnel of the Petron Ormoc Bulk Plant and other stakeholders will plant along lakesides and riverbanks an assortment of fruit trees and forest trees. In Brgy. Tugasnon, Alubijid, Misamis Oriental, Petron Misamis Bulk Plant personnel will join residents in the efforts to advance reforestation measures started in the Alubijid Watershed.

Kontra Kalat sa Dagat
Saturday, April 28
Mariveles, Bataan

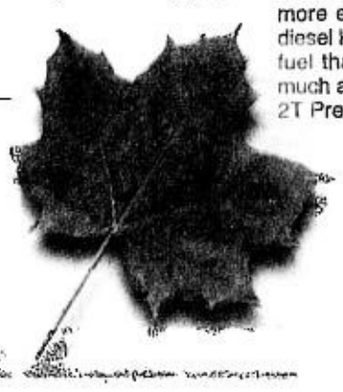
The Petron-initiated Kontra-Kalat sa Dagat (KKD) moves to its third year with the monthly coastal cleanup in Bataan. The local government of Mariveles in particular has been holding KKD activities on a monthly basis (every last Saturday of every month), where Petron joins some 2,500 stakeholders in volunteering to ridding the shorelines of trash.

EARTH DAY EXHIBITS
Glorietta 2
April 22-28

Petron takes part in an exhibit for a cause at the Glorietta with the "Recyclers Showcase" organized by the Ayala Foundation and Philippine Business for the Environment. The weeklong activity displays works by organizations and individuals featuring recycled materials under the theme "Clothing the Waste Loop with Recycling".

April 22
Malacañang Palace

In partnership with the DENR, Petron is putting up a one-day exhibit at the Lawn Area (near Kalayaan Hall) of Malacañang Palace. The exhibit will feature environmental initiatives of the company as well as showcase the smoke emission machines that Petron will be using in selected service stations nationwide.



BLAZE

Blaze is one of Petron's gasoline products that are earth friendly. By coming up with this kind of gasoline, Petron encourages the motorists to use a gasoline that is not only highly efficient but environment-friendly as well. Because of the product's superior combustion feature, Blaze helps reduce harmful emissions that can harm the environment and people's health.

Blaze is the most advanced fuel in the market today. It sets a new standard for premium unleaded gasoline that outdoes other high-end gasoline brands in over-all engine performance. Blaze is not just a high-octane, high-performance gasoline, it is also intended to help the motorists save on fuel, repair and maintenance of their vehicles without damaging the environment.

With the combined performance of the Octane boosters and special cleaning agents, Blaze offers a significant reduction on combustion chamber deposits. In rigorous tests carried out by the Fraunhofer Institute in Germany on engine exhausts, no differences in the toxic effects of the exhausts derived from fuel could be detected making Blaze satisfy the environmental legislation on the reduction of tail-pipe emission levels. Such work has also satisfied the requirements of internationally acclaimed organizations particularly the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SWERA) for product acceptability. Having a very high octane rating, the highest in the country, Blaze contains special cleaning agents that maximize engine and over-all car performance. Blaze is a pure, highly refined fuel that does not only promise exceptional engine response at the start, but also provides sustained power all throughout. With these attributes, cars are protected from chamber deposits, harmful emissions and are assured of prolonged efficient operation of the catalyst. Blaze gives car engines the added boost during cruising speed even on heavy load-pulling conditions for better fuel economy.

XCS PLUS

Is unleaded gasoline safe for leaded gasoline-powered cars? Is it indeed safe for the environment? To those of us who ask these questions, the answer is in the affirmative. Yes, there is an unleaded gasoline safe for use on leaded gasoline-powered cars that is earth friendly at the same time - XCS Plus.

XCS Plus is an unleaded fuel that is far superior than leaded gas in terms of power and protection. With an octane rating of 95 RON, it contains no lead, but has the additive Valvemaster, a superior lead substitute. From the name itself, XCS Plus provides an "extra cleaning system" that gives a cleaning action far superior than other fuel brands in its category. This additive also acts as a solid lubricant or cushion on exhaust valves and valve seats, preventing metal to metal contact in engine parts such as carburetors, injector ports and nozzles. The combustion chamber is kept clean by inhibiting the formation of residue or corrosion for reduced smoke emissions.

With a cleaner engine, you will get more power out of the fuel which will result to better fuel economy, reduced maintenance costs and lower emissions that are harmful to the environment.

DIESEL MAX

It is a known fact that diesel-run vehicles tend to be smoky, noisy and smelly. Most drivers and passengers inadvertently get a whiff of these irritating and unhealthy emissions from diesel-run engines. To address these concerns, Petron has gone into research, testing a reformulation of its diesel fuel, looking for a solution that could improve the physical and chemical properties of diesel and at the same time, deliver a diesel fuel product with superior performance. As part of its commitment to respond to its consumer needs, Petron introduced Diesel Max another technological breakthrough in the fuel industry.

Diesel Max is an advanced diesel fuel enhanced with a multi-functional additive from Octel, the world's leading distributor and producer of transport additives. Petron Diesel Max is the only diesel fuel with the unique additive system that offers tremendous reduction of black smoke and emissions up to 45%. Because of the fuel's superior combustion process, it reduces emissions of black-smoke, particulates, hydrocarbons and other air pollutants, making it the only environment-friendly diesel fuel available in the market.

Its additive system also provides cleaning action to the fuel ignition system that dramatically reduces black smoke, resulting to a more proficient engine performance. With corrosion inhibitors, Diesel Max protects more from corrosion, caused by the presence of water or moisture in the fuel offering the essential armor for gas tanks, fuel lines and engine systems.

No other diesel fuel is as earth-friendly as Diesel Max, a product developed by Petron not only to protect diesel-run engines but to protect the environment, motorists and commuters alike from unhealthy and polluting fumes and emissions.

PETRON'S drive for CLEANER AIR

Air pollution is taking its toll on all of us. Environmentalists and health experts have cautioned the public on the evident danger of air pollution from harmful motor vehicle emissions. This has caused Filipinos to suffer from varying forms of respiratory diseases. Because of this, private companies, government agencies and non-government organizations are now working hand-in-hand to address this concern.

While government has mandated the phase out of leaded gasoline this year, Petron has taken the early initiative to help solve our air pollution problem as far back as 1988. In 1988, Petron Corp. launched 2T Premium oil, a 2-stroke oil for tricycles that dramatically cuts harmful emissions. This was just the first step in Petron Corporation's continuing effort to bring to the public an oil product that is safe for the environment and to one's health. In 1994, Petron built the Gas Oil Desulfurizer Unit that made possible the reduction of sulfur from diesel fuel. From then on, Petron never stopped developing more earth-friendly products, the latest of which is a clean diesel known as Diesel Max. Diesel Max is the first ever diesel fuel that drastically reduces black smoke emissions by as much as 45%. The introduction of two broadly-used products-2T Premium oil and Diesel Max - were milestones as these products not only offered superiority, but also helped alleviate the worsening problem of air pollution in the country.

Petron Corp. also spearheaded other major initiatives to promote the drive for cleaner air, such as product development of cleaner fuels so motorists can make wiser choices when it comes to gasoline and diesel fuel usage. Environmental programs such as the Bataan coastline clean-up and tree planting efforts are also regularly undertaken.

In doing all these, Petron is not just providing the public with their energy needs but has opted to protect the environment we live in - a serious and urgent task not just for Petron but for every Filipino.

earth day 2001 MALACANANG

DENR

PETRON

Violent clashes between protesters, police greet Americas Summit start

QUEBEC—Riot police braced for more violence Saturday after clashes with protesters transformed the picturesque streets of this 17th-century capital into a tear gas-clouded battlefield.

Protesters angry that they were denied access to the Summit of the Americas tore down a piece of the 3.8-km wall built to keep them out only blocks from the site of the summit and the hotels housing 34 leaders of the Americas including US President George W. Bush.

Riot police fought them back with dozens of volleys of tear gas, periodically charging at the crowd of about 1,000 and keeping time to the beat of night sticks on their plastic shields. Some of the protesters threw bricks, molotov cocktails—and even teddy bears—at the police.

More clashes broke out elsewhere along the security fence, lasting well into the night. Police arrested 25 people. Authorities said five police officers were injured, and several protesters and journalists also were seen with minor injuries.

Even before the trouble ended, police were bracing for a major march on Saturday they feared could spark more violence. Protesters who have come from across Canada, the United States and Latin America scheduled a march near the security perimeter in their biggest planned show of force of the weekend summit.

The protesters represent a diverse range of activists—organized labor, human rights organizations, environmental groups and others who say the talks on creating a Western Hemisphere free-trade zone should be held in public instead of in a locked conference center.

Many said that forced them to express their opposition through street protests.

"People only remember Seattle, not the other summits," said Guillaume Bernabe, 20, of Sherbrooke, near Quebec City. "If we can pass our message, we have gone in a good direction." *AP*

PROTESTERS clash with police in Quebec City, April 20. Thousands of demonstrators have gathered to protest the meeting of the Summit of the Americas. REUTERS

Malaysia to review rights laws

KUALA LUMPUR—The government has decided to review its human rights laws amid widespread condemnation of the arrests of opposition leaders under an ordinance that allows indefinite detention without trial, a report said Saturday.

The New Straits Times daily quoted Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as saying that the government will amend some of the laws "that had become irrelevant as they were drawn up many years ago."

Abdullah, who also heads the powerful Home Ministry did not say if the review would cover the dreaded Internal Security Act, which police used to detain eight prominent opposition activists over the past 12 days.

The Internal Security Act was introduced in the early 1960s to quell a communist insurgency.

Seven of the activists were arrested last week, ahead of a rally on April 14 to mark the second year of jailed politician Anwar Ibrahim's conviction and six-year jail sentence on corruption charges.

Another opposition activist was arrested on Friday by 30 plainclothes policemen in a pre-dawn raid on his house in Kuala Lumpur.

Police said the activists were detained for their role in alleged attempts to organize violent street protests to topple Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's government.

Human rights and lawyers' groups have urged the government to abolish or tone down the act, arguing it is no longer needed. *AP*

Sharon vows to revive talks if 'terrorism' ends

PARIS—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has said he would not lose "one day" in returning to the peace table if Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat were to put an end to what Sharon calls "terrorism," a newspaper reported Saturday.

"What I expect from Arafat is that he take measures against the terrorist infrastructure, measures... that he has never taken," Sharon said in an interview with Le Figaro.

"He should act against (Palestinian militant groups) Hamas and Islamic Jihad, against Tanzim, which is part of his own party, (and) against Hezbollah, which is beginning to operate in Israel itself.

The militant Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah spearheaded a guerrilla war that helped drive Israel from its 22-year occupation of southern Lebanon last May.

Last October, they captured three Israeli soldiers in a bid to secure the release of Arab prisoners held in Israel.

A Hezbollah attack on an Israeli military unit in the disputed Shebaa Farms area a week ago, which killed one soldier, drew an Israeli response which sparked fears that the regional conflict could widen. Israel warplanes attacked a Syrian army installation in Lebanon, killing at least one soldier.

Sharon told Le Figaro that Arafat's presidential guard, Force 17, was in "permanent liaison" with Hezbollah, which he said benefited from that cooperation.

Addressing France and "every other country in the world that wants peace in the Middle East," Sharon said they "should put pressure on Arafat so that he stops the terrorism.

"If we achieve that result... I give you my word I will not lose one day in engaging in immediate negotiations with the Palestinians."

Alluding to an agenda for such hypothetical talks, Sharon repeated that Israel would not budge in its position on the future of Jerusalem or on Jewish settlements.

Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war, later annexing it as part of its "eternal and indivisible" capital. The Palestinians, however, want east Jerusalem as capital of a future state.

"No Israeli has the right to abandon Jerusalem or to divide Jerusalem," Sharon said, adding the question: "How can Jerusalem be negotiable?"

Turning to the question of settlements, Sharon said they represented security zones that "all Israeli governments have judged to be absolutely necessary," and he gave virtually no hope that Israel would be prepared to remove them. *AFP*

Trekker lost for 5 weeks in Aussie outback found

HOBART, Australia—A man given up for dead after disappearing five weeks ago in some of Australia's wildest terrain was recovering in hospital Saturday after stumbling upon a group of campers.

Benjamin Maloney, 27, survived on wild mushrooms and water after becoming lost in mid-March while hiking in the rain forest wilderness of Tasmania, the island state off Australia's southeastern coast. He told a doctor he had not eaten during the last 20 days.

Maloney emerged from the forest Friday confused and malnourished, and told campers, "I wanted to survive."

Police said the area where Maloney had been wandering had experienced snow and extreme heat.

Emergency medicine specialist Dr. Tom Morton described the survival as miraculous.

"No doubt about it. He's one of the luckiest people in Australia to be alive today," Morton was quoted as saying by The Sydney Morning Herald.

Maloney, a former soldier, said he became lost after wandering off a track. He was unable to attract the attention of searchers, who ended a hunt for him nearly three weeks ago after concluding that he could not have survived.

Maloney had only a light pack and blankets, and was dressed in light clothing.

Maloney said he survived for the first 10 days on rice and when that ran out, wild mushrooms, but then went the last 20 days without food.

"He has received some minor medical treatment but needs no major treatment," Morton said.

"He is not distressed, he is emotional. He is not in any pain and he is obviously relieved to be out," he said.

The six campers who found Maloney gave him clothing and food before driving him to the nearest town. *AP*

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US jets attack in Iraq

WASHINGTON—US fighter jets attacked a mobile early-warning radar in southern Iraq Thursday, after Iraq fired artillery and surface-to-air missiles at coalition planes patrolling a no-fly zone in southern Iraqi, a US military spokesman said Friday.

Air Force F-15 Eagles and Navy F/A-18C Hornets used precision weapons against the radar, said Lieutenant Colonel Rick Thomas, a spokesman for the Tampa, Florida-based US Central Command.

"It was in response to recent Iraqi hostile acts against coalition aircraft, which used precision-guided weapons to strike a mobile early-warning radar," he said.

He said Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missile were fired aircraft of the US-British coalition as recently as this week.

The attack was the first US strike in southern Iraq since April 12, he said.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi military spokesman said the attacks were against "civilian installations" but that there were no injuries.

"The enemy warplanes were forced to flee under fire of anti-air defense missiles," said the spokesman, quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency.

The spokesman also said warplanes raided northern Iraq on Friday and were again repelled by Iraqi anti-air defense missiles. *AFP*

Taiwan's Lee sets landmark trip to Japan

TOKYO—Former Taiwanese president Lee Teng-hui arrives in Japan on Sunday for a landmark trip after Tokyo finally decided to ignore China's protests and grant him a visa.

Sources said Lee, 78, would arrive in Osaka on Sunday afternoon.

It will be his first visit to Japan since 1985 and his third trip overseas since his retirement last May. He has visited Britain and the Czech Republic since retiring.

Japan, which had dithered over the visa issue for weeks, finally announced Friday it would let him visit for medical treatment, prompting an immediate protest and veiled threat of retaliatory action from China.

During his trip, Lee will visit a hospital in Kurashiki, western Japan, about 550 km from Tokyo, to see a heart surgeon for a follow-up to surgery he underwent last November in Taipei.

Japanese newspapers backed the government's decision to issue a visa to the former Taiwan president.

"We praise the government's final decision although (the decision) was delayed," the Sankei Shimbun said in an editorial.

"Needless to say, issuing a visa is subject to a decision by each sovereign state," the conservative newspaper said.

"China's apparent interference into domestic issues does not work in the international community," the daily said. *AFP*

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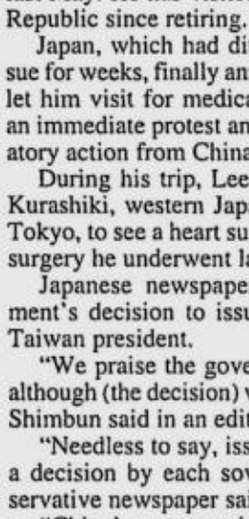

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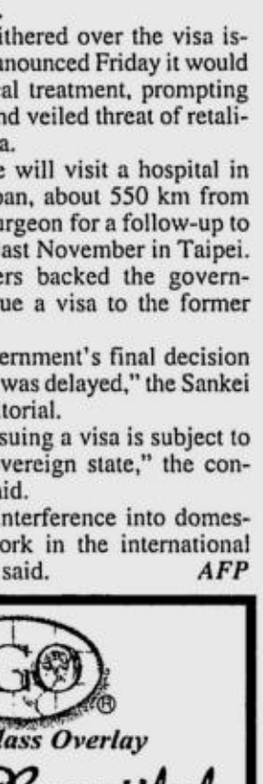

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2 MORE BETS SLAIN

Poll violence continues

ELECTION violence claimed two more lives as gunmen shot dead two candidates for mayor in the provinces of Albay and Agusan del Sur.

Three suspected members of the New People's Army shot dead Dr. Florencio Muñoz (Lakas-NUCD), who is running for mayor of Camalig, Albay.

In Agusan del Sur, Oscar Turralba, a candidate for mayor of La Paz town, was also killed at 11:45 a.m. yesterday.

Muñoz, mayor for at least 25 years in Camalig, was shot after he delivered a campaign speech in Barangay Bariw, some 10 kilometers west of Camalig about 9:30 p.m. Friday.

Turralba was the second candidate for mayor killed in Agusan del Sur in four days.

Bayugan Mayor Lope Asis (LDP-Puwersa ng Masa) was gunned down late Tuesday night while shaking the hands of his supporters in a rally in Barangay Cagbas in Agusan del Sur.

Initial reports said Turralba was shot by three men while he was having a party caucus in Barangay Comota, a remote village.

On Wednesday, a spokesperson of the NPA's Nicolas Moteverda Command claimed responsibility for the killing of Asis and said he was one of seven mayors in the province marked for liquidation by the rebels.

Supt. Reynaldo Rafal, Albay provincial police director, said Muñoz took a bullet in the head.

Residents rushed the victim to the Bicol Regional Teaching and Training Hospital where he died an hour later.

Residents told the INQUIRER two of the three assailants were young men. The three took turns firing at the victim.

Legazpi City Mayor Imelda Roces who is running for a seat in the House of Representatives and who attended the campaign sortie, said she was on her way to her vehicle when she heard shots.

Roces expressed alarm over the spate of election-related violence that had claimed at least three lives in the Bicol region.

Paz, Munoz's wife and incumbent mayor of Camalig town, said she was walking ahead of her husband when she heard what she thought at first were firecracker explosions.

"But when I looked back, Dr. Muñoz was already lying on the ground," Paz said.

Rafal said the gunmen disappeared in the town's jungles.

There were no policemen during the campaign sortie, a fact admitted by personnel of the Camalig police station.

Policemen said there was no request for assistance from the candidates.

Lt. Col. Pendatun Guro, military spokesman in Bicol, said he believed politics was behind the killing.

"Based on an intelligence report, the victim was in the hit list of the rebels. It could be the rebels who initiated the killing, but we also believe that politics is also behind it," he said.

Muñoz's opponent, incumbent Vice Mayor John B. Villanueva Jr., refused to comment on the incident.

Rafal said the slain mayoral candidate had long been marked by the NPA.

The rebels, Rafal said, declared Muñoz persona non grata because of his strong support for the establishment of the cement plant in Barangay Palanog, a project militant groups opposed.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mosquito-borne disease killing cattle in Negros

BACOLOD CITY—A mosquito-borne animal disease killed 11 more carabaos and horses in southern Negros Occidental, bringing the death toll to 122.

The number of animals afflicted by the surra disease also increased from 162 to 286 in Kabankalan City and the towns of Ilog, Cauayan and Candoni.

Candoni was the latest town to be hit by surra, which is caused by blood parasites that multiply in the bloodstream, lymphatic vessels, tissues and central nervous system.

Sixty-nine animals afflicted with surra in Kabankalan died, 22 in Ilog, 30 in Cauayan and one in Candoni.

Para-veterinarians and technicians had been monitoring farms in Kabankalan and the three towns.

But the effort to stop the spread of the disease was concentrated in Kabankalan because the livestock auction markets are located there.

Provincial veterinarian Renante Decena said they feared that cattle being brought to Kabankalan for auction would be infected and transmit the disease to cattle in other towns and cities in the province.

He said he would ask the provincial government to share with the affected local government units the costs of Trypanocide, a vaccine known to prevent surra.

His proposal, Decena said, would help LGUs that could not afford to buy the vaccine, which cost P100 each.

Gov. Rafael Coscolluela, meanwhile, appealed to the mayors of the affected LGUs to act on the problem "for the sake of the farmers."

"We need a comprehensive irradiation effort that will require the full cooperation of all the mayors, the para-veterinarians and the barangay officials," he said.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

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Tañada tops mock polls for Senate in Iloilo

ILOILO CITY—It's 12-1 for the People Power Coalition (PPC) and Wigberto Tañada topped the senatorial race, according to the results of a mock election held by various groups here.

About 60 participants of the forum on voters' education chose all PPC bets except Liwayway Chato whom they replaced with Perfecto Yasay (Independent), an Ilonggo.

The straw voting was held on Thursday before the start of a forum at the University of the Philippines in the Visayas organized by the Iloilo Caucus of Development NGOs (non-government organization) and Panay-Guimaras Convenor of POs (people's organization) and NGOs.

Tañada was the No. 1 choice followed by Franklin Drilon, Joker Arroyo, Serge Osmeña III, Roberto Pagdanganan, Juan Flavier, Francis Pangilinan, Manny Villar, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Perfecto Yasay, Ernesto Herrera, Winnie Monsod and Ralph Recto.

Yasay made it to 10th place while Chato was 15th after broadcaster Noli de Castro (Independent), who got the 14th slot. Pwersa ng Masa's Ricardo Puno and Miriam Santiago shared the 16th slot.

Yasay enjoyed the support of voters, some of them alumni of the Baptist-founded Central Philippines University, where Yasay earned his A.B. Political Science in 1966. Yasay's father, Perfecto Sr., is a Baptist minister.

Santiago remains popular in Western Visayas even as she took flak for defending ousted President Joseph Estrada, results from the mock election showed.

Juan Ponce Enrile, another PMP candidate, closely followed Santiago in the tally.

The top choices for partylist were Akbayan, Natco Coop, Bayan Muna, AKO and Sanlakas. *Ma. Diosa Labiste, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Gringo says troopers' frat to guard elections

BAGUIO CITY—Reelectionist Sen. Gregorio Honasan on Wednesday said the military and police fraternity Guardians is tapping its 400,000 members nationwide to monitor the conduct of the May 14 elections.

Honasan, a former Army colonel and a supporter of Guardians, said the group was activated following a national convention in Metro Manila on Tuesday.

The Guardians would focus on "*bantay-balota* (ballot monitoring)," after noting the "ominous signs" that the coming elections would again be manipulated, he said.

He also said the Guardians would guard the watchdogs themselves, like the National Movement for Free Elections, which he described as a "partisan organization."

But Honasan, who met reporters here on Wednesday night, insisted that the fielding of the fraternity, composed of active military and police personnel, is not part of a destabilization campaign aimed at helping ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Honasan said both the Guardians and the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan, which he co-founded, were more concerned about the outcome of the May 14 polls.

"Society had been locked in a situation (where people are broken down into only two stereotypes), you are either pro-Estrada or you are anti-Estrada. Politicians forget that issues can be elevated to a higher plane. The Guardians, RAM, myself—we are here simply because we are in full support of the constitutional process. This is not necessarily connected to Estrada's problems," Honasan told the INQUIRER.

He acknowledged that the Guardians' presence in this year's elections will "create fear." "That is (our) design, to create fear if (the culprits we are watching) interfere with the will of the people, if they continue to violate due process, if they thwart the will of the people," he said.

Honasan raised the specter of cheating in relation to the People Power Coalition's objective of sweeping the polls.

"There is (no room) for 13-0 in a democracy. *Hindi puwedeng sila-sila na lang* (It is not right for them to continue lording it over us). It is not right for the Senate. If they are not fair (in these coming polls), we are telling the Filipino people that active military and police personnel (will not) allow democracy to weaken again," he said.

Lawyer Elmer Sagsago, a state prosecutor who acts as Cordillera coordinator for the Guardians, said fraternity leaders who attended the Tuesday meeting agreed to man every poll booth on May 14.

"It is going to be very costly... but every chapter of the Guardians will harness its own resources. Usually, we do these activities on a voluntary basis," Sagsago said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Voters' education

CALAUAN, Laguna—Bishop Francisco C. San Diego has launched a voters' education campaign "to ensure a more peaceful, fair, orderly and enlightened May 14 elections." The diocese held lectures starting April 17 for voters and would sponsor today a forum at the UP Los Baños. The forum is expected to end in the signing of a covenant for peace by candidates for various positions in Laguna.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Woman held for shabu

TABACO CITY—A female beerhouse manager spent Easter Sunday in jail for shabu possession. Chief Insp. Nilo Berdin, Tabaco City police chief, identified the suspect as Merly Bitancur, 46, a resident of Pilar, Sorsogon. Bitancur was arrested in a buy-bust operation by police undercover agents who seized from her four sachets of shabu, marked money and drug paraphernalia.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Loans for industry

DAET, Camarines Norte—The development of the jewelry and pineapple industries in the province got a boost after the provincial government released P300,000 from its internal revenue allotment for the industries. Of the amount, P200,000 was used to buy tools and pieces of equipment for the Camarines Norte Jewelry Producers Association Inc. (CNJPAI) which operates a jewelry training center. The rest of the amount was used to buy two units of pineapple decorticating machines, which can process 40 kilos of pineapple fibers in an eight-hour operation.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 cops gunned down

BALANGA CITY—Two policemen in Bataan were gunned down by suspected members of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan in separate incidents here on Tuesday. Reports reaching Camp Tolentino here identified the victims as PO3 Rafael Imperial of Orion police, and SPO1 Pedrito Sisperez Jr. of the Limay police. Reports said Imperial, intelligence officer of the Orion police, was following up a report on illegal drugs when he was gunned down. He took 13 bullets in the body. Sisperez was driving his service motorcycle when gunmen shot him in the head. The suspects took his .45 cal. pistol and wallet.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Militiaman slain

CABARROGUIS, Quirino—Two suspected New People's Army rebels shot and killed a member of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit in Maddela, Quirino on Monday, police said. Supt. Rodolfo Tutaan, Quirino police director, identified the fatality as Ezequiel Pimentel, 44, a Cafgu member based in Maddela. Pimentel's wife told police that the suspects, armed with handguns, went to their house and waited for her husband. She said when Pimentel arrived, the suspects invited him outside their house and shot him.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Free 'arnis' training

COTABATO CITY—The Interior and Local Government office in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao late this month will conduct a free arnis training for village law enforcers and other officials. Jabbar Narra Jalil, DILG-ARMM secretary, said there is a need to promote self-defense and empower the communities through arnis.

Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

New bridge opens

MALINAO, Albay—The longest bridge in Albay province, which connects four upland villages here to the town proper, is now open. It is 180 meters long and is expected to benefit 600 families here. The bridge's was funded partly by a P28 million grant from the World Bank. A new road compliments the bridge. The projects were implemented through the Department of Agrarian Reform's Agrarian Reform Community Development Project (ARCDP). The projects will facilitate the transport of agricultural products. Malinao town Mayor Salvador Moll said the bridge cost P20 million, while the road-opening project cost P5.9 million. Some P2.7 million was spent on an irrigation project. DAR provincial project director Roseller Olayres said DAR's ARCDP started in Albay in 1997 and will end in 2002. "The funding is a grant, so the local government unit has no obligation to pay," Olayres said.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao and Eastern Visayas will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

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'Shabu' now P250-B industry, says cop

NAGA CITY—The trafficking of illegal drugs in the country has grown into a P250 billion industry, a top Philippine National Police officer said.

Police Director Miguel Coronel of the National Drug Enforcement Coordinating Council said the trade of methampethamine hydrochloride or shabu accounts for most of the revenue in the illegal drug industry.

According to Coronel, the drug trade has been bleeding the Philippine economy dry because shabu is imported from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

He said money from the drug trade is laundered in banks here because the country does not have an anti-laundering law.

He said the drug trade is very profitable because it does not require huge investments.

Coronel said that for a gram of shabu worth P2,000, drug producers only invest P10.

He said the number of shabu users in the country last year reached 1.7 million, of which 1.2 million are youth, and the number is still growing.

Coronel said the magnitude of the drug problem could be seen by just checking court records.

He said there are at least 20,000 drug cases that clog courts and 70 percent of heinous crimes that had been filed in court is drug-related.

He added that some 5,000 patients have been admitted in different rehabilitation centers and that 30 to 40 patients are being taken in every day.

Coronel said of the 36,739 suspects apprehended for illegal drugs, only 1 percent has been jailed.

He said the people's lack of trust in law enforcers and the justice system, corruption and the lukewarm response of communities to the drug problem make the fight against drugs more difficult.

But the war on drugs continues as Church, media and people's organizations closed ranks here to map out a battle plan against the drug trade.

The move was triggered by the exposé of a certain Allija Tria, 17, who filed cases against alleged drug pushers in this city who are members of prominent families.

The younger Tria, with the help of his father Agapito, sued 10 people with whom she had drug sessions.

The younger Tria was a student of a prominent girls' school here and her parents discovered her addiction to drugs through her diary.

Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Consumers await power rate relief

BY GERRY T. PAGHARION
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—The Capiz provincial board is urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to stick to promise to suspend the Power Purchased Adjustment (PPA) rate, a surcharge collected from consumers for losses incurred by power suppliers.

In a resolution passed Thursday, the provincial board asked Ms Macapagal to "clarify... her declared policy (to suspend) the (PPA) and to proclaim a definite date of its implementation."

The board said the President did not say when the collection of the PPA would be suspended.

Councilor Albert Potato said he, too, would sponsor a similar resolution in the city council to remind Ms Macapagal of her promise.

"I have no reason to doubt the President's word. I expect her to (fulfill) her promise," he said.

The President had announced that suspending the collection of the PPA would translate into a P400-million loss for the Napocor.

On April 3, Ms Macapagal also announced that aside from the suspension of the PPA, the government also planned to reduce power rates by 20 centavos.

The government-run Philippine Information Agency later clarified that what was being reduced by 20 centavos per kilowatt-hour was the Fuel and Purchased Power Cost Adjustment (FPCA) rate.

Engineer Edgar Diaz, Capiz Electric Cooperative manager, said he, too, was made to understand that the entire PPA would be scrapped, which would mean a 40-70 percent reduction of power rates.

Diaz agreed that the President has to clarify her statement on the PPA suspension because his office has been deluged by calls from consumers who are asking when the supposed suspension would take effect.

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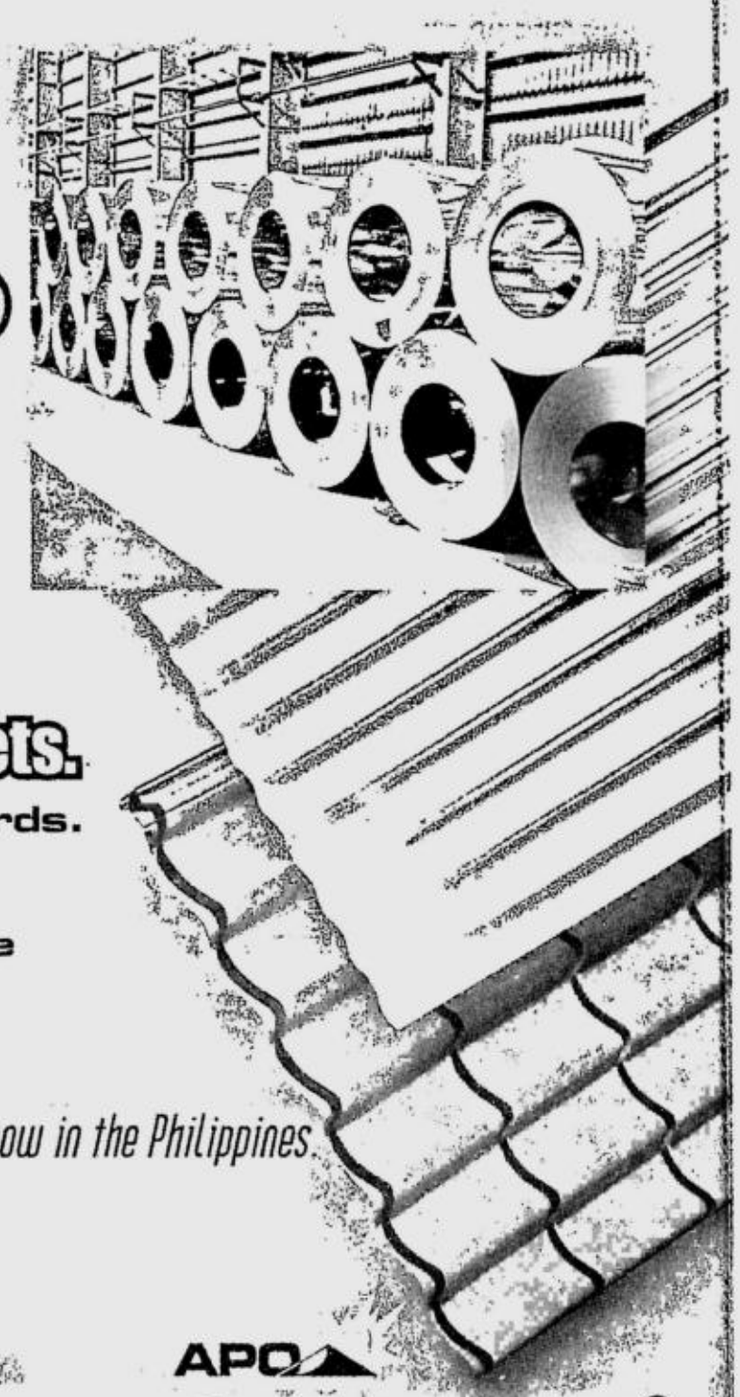

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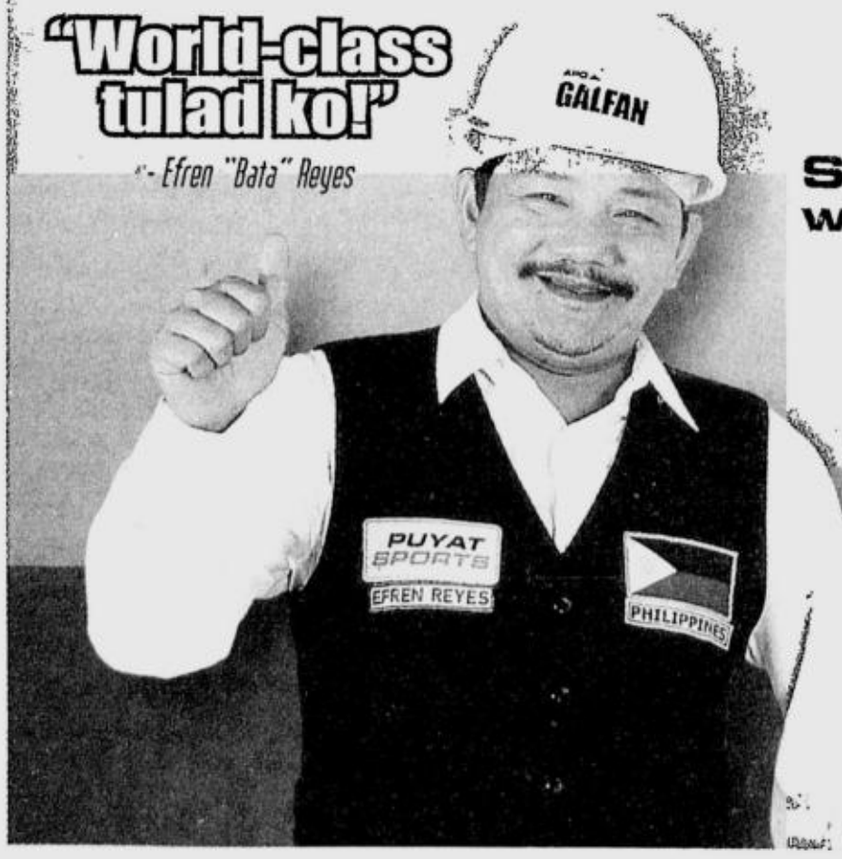

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INQUIRER Mindanao
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Sipadan hostage-taking: A year ago

BY NORALYN MUSTAFA
Jolo, Sulu

AT FIRST the reports on an international TV channel were sketchy: 10 European tourists, nine Malaysians and two Filipino resort workers at the Sipadan Island Beach resort in Malaysia had been abducted on Easter Sunday, April 23, by still unknown gunmen.

Succeeding reports said "more than 10" heavily armed men speaking a "Philippine dialect" had raided the diving resort, ransacked the premises and kidnapped the victims at gunpoint. They were believed to have been brought to "one of the Philippine islands" that was only 45 minutes away by boat from the eastern Malaysian coast.

That was how one of the longest hostage dramas in recent memory started.

It rivaled last year in news value only the impeachment trial and ouster of President Joseph Estrada.

For Jolo, not even the Moro National Liberation Front attack and almost total burning of the town in 1974 had made the island the focus of world attention.

It has been a year now, and of the 21 original hostages, only Filipino Roland Ullah, chief diving instructor of the resort, remains in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf, the dreaded kidnap-for-ransom group that had been operating in Sulu and Basilan since the early '90s.

Within the year, the bandits abducted more hostages, including foreign and local journalists and Christian evangelists.

They seized a total of 46 people, not counting the 10 mostly German journalists who were detained for 12 hours but released after paying an "exit fee" of $25,000.

At least $20 million was reported to have been paid in ransom for the European hostages, RM10 million for the Malaysians, and several millions of pesos more for the Filipino hostages.

Media

The following day, two foreign news agency reporters along with the first group of foreign journalists and a German TV crew arrived in Jolo and the media coverage of the Sipadan hostage crisis begun.

The military proceeded to seal off all exits in Sulu, as then acting AFP chief Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim announced that military units had been deployed throughout the Sulu archipelago.

Then President Estrada designated ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari to negotiate with the kidnappers on behalf of the Philippine government. Four hundred joint military and PNP forces cordoned off Samak in Talipao, another ASG stronghold.

But the bandits refused to negotiate with Misuari and even threatened to behead the foreign captives unless Misuari was replaced. Misuari threatened to pull out of the negotiations unless the military ceased operations both in Sulu and Basilan. Calimlim rejected Misuari's demand.

Complicated

The situation became more complicated when the Abu Sayyaf demanded that the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference intervene in the crisis.

Misuari's emissary, Jamasali Abdurahman, ARMM local government secrertary who purportedly met with the ASG leaders, told media the kidnappers had conveyed three verbal demands and would present a "written list" on May 5.

But on Sunday, freelance journalist Arlyn de la Cruz, armed with video and still photo cameras, was able to visit the jungle lair where the hostages were being held, and the next day, the world saw them on TV for the first time.

In its May 2 issue, the Inquirer published De la Cruz's story on its front page, with accompanying photos of some of the hostages, with most of the names in the captions misspelled or wrong. One small photo of three figures squatting together on the floor was captioned "three unidentified Malaysians." Two of them were actually Filipinos—Lucrecia Dablo and Roland Ullah.

As De la Cruz would narrate to colleagues upon her return to Jolo later that day, she was blindfolded on her way to the hostages' camp but was permitted to stay two hours to shoot footage and interview the victims.

Aside from giving a face to the hostages, De la Cruz's foray belied the claims made by emissaries.

According to De la Cruz, the Abu Sayyaf leaders denied that they had met with Jamasali, and reiterated that they refused to recognize Misuari as chief negotiator.

THE FACES of terror are hiding behind masks. Members of the bandit group Abu Sayyaf attend a meeting between government officials and bandit leaders at the height of the Sipadan hostage crisis. FILE PHOTO

Arranged by Misuari's men

Ironically, the journalist's trip was arranged by Misuari's emissaries and the MNLF, in coordination with the military. The Abu Sayyaf, who De la Cruz had covered in Basilan, had specifically asked for her and another journalist also familiar to them.

The day after De la Cruz visited the camp, government doctor Nelsa Amin, then director of the integrated provincial health office, was permitted to enter the camp, together with only three journalists, according to the kidnappers' specifications—only those from international media outfits, including one from television.

Deutche Presse Agentur's John Grafilo, Agence France Presse's (Malaysia) Amin Lai and a cameraman of one of the local TV networks were chosen by the MNLF emissaries to go with Dr. Amin.

Wallert

The doctor reported that many of the hostages were suffering from minor ailments, but she recommended the immediate hospitalization of German Renate Wallert and Frenchman Stephane Loisy.

The request was denied by the bandit group and the next day, they attacked a military outpost in Ti-is Kutong in Talipao, killing an Army soldier and wounding four MNLF Army integrees.

Thus begun the series of skirmishes between the Abu Sayyaf and the military during the hostage crisis.

Immediately after the incident, the kidnappers transferred their hostages in the dead of night to neighboring Patikul town, where a border scout sighted them in Sitio Lumping at the foot of Mt. Dahu.

They were also turned over to the custody of Patikul ASG leader Raddulan Sahiron, the so-called "one armed bandit" because of an amputated right arm, which he lost, as an MNLF commander, in a battle with the military during the 1970s.

Impatient with the pace of the negotiations which seemed to be getting nowhere, Estrada issued a memorandum to Misuari, giving him 48 hours within which to make a breakthrough, a deadline, it was pretty obvious, that was impossible to meet.

Aventajado mission

Estrada then flew to Mindanao "to take personal charge" of efforts to free the hostages, as government troops shelled the defense lines of the Abu Sayyaf hideout in Talipao in a seven-hour skirmish.

The ASG retaliated by hiding their captives deeper into the jungles.

A government negotiating panel was formed, with Robert Aventajado, flagship projects secretary, heading it and Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan, Dr. Parouk Hussin, chair of the MNLF foreign affairs committee, and Ustadz Ibrahim Ghazali, designated representative of Misuari, as members of the panel.

Former Libyan ambassador to the Philippines Abdul Rajab Azzarouq, special envoy of Shaif'ul Islam Ghadafi, chair of the Ghadafi International Charity Foundation, joined the panel, marking Libya's entry into the scenario.

Azzarouq who, upon his arrival accused the extremist group of being "inhuman" and condemned the kidnapping as "un-Islamic," lost no time in meeting with the Abu Sayyaf.

On May 10, two days after his arrival, the envoy and Ghazali held talks with the ASG leaders. It was the first face-to-face contact with the kidnappers, 17 days after the abduction, although nothing much transpired except an agreement to reset another meeting the following day.

But the meeting was aborted when the bandits fled for the second time, fearing a military attack after troops were deployed near their hideout in Patikul.

Thus begun a series of aborted or no-show meetings.

Empty-handed, flabbergasted

One memorable meeting was the one arranged by Misuari who assured Azzarouq and then executive secretary Ronaldo Zamora, that Renate Wallert's release was "imminent" and the envoy, together with Dr. Hussin, returned empty-handed and flabbergasted.

A group of European journalists, intrepid as they are, impatient as they were, followed Azzarouq and Dr. Hussin to what they hoped would be the hostages' camp, followed and got lost in the greenery right into the hands of a group of so-called "lost command" bandits.

Upon Governor Tan's intercession, with of course a few hundred thousand pesos, they were relased and returned the following day, none the worse for the experience except for a scolding by the governor.

After Misuari's caper, he was replaced by Aventajado as chief negotiator on May 15.

Thus begun the "formal" negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf.

After much hemming and hawing on the part of the bandit leaders, their tiresome no-shows and impossible "political demands" the government negotiators soon realized that the talks were getting nowhere and by June, simply backed off.

Soon after, 13 evangelists of the Jesus Miracle Crusade congregation, calling themselves prayer warriors, went to the ASG camp to "pray over" the hostages and persuade the bandits to release them. They were made hostages themselves.

Three construction workers, Jolo residents, were abducted on July 2 while quarrying sand in Patikul, by still another breakaway faction operating in that town.

On Aug. 28, American Jeffrey Craig Schilling, married to the widow of a member of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan, went with his wife to the camp of Basilan-based Abu Sabaya who fled to Jolo to escape relentless military operations.

Schilling walked right into captivity.

On Sept. 9, three more Malaysians were abducted from yet another beach resort in Malaysia, Pulao Pandan, swelling the number of hostages and victims to 47.

The bandits, not content with simply stripping journalists of their personal effects and exacting "entry and exit fees," now begun abducting journalists themselves.

First to be abducted were 10 journalists, most of them German TV crew members. But among them was Der Spiegel writer Andreas Lorenz, who was kidnapped a month later, on July 2.

He was released 25 days later after payment of a controversial DM500,000 ransom.

A week later, three crew members of French TV 2, Jean Jacques Le Garrec, Maryse Burgot and Roland Madura were detained after they went to Bandang, Talipao to interview the hostages.

Also in July, ABS-CBN's Val Cuenca and Maan Macapagal were abducted in Patikul by a breakaway ASG group after they interviewed the high profile Sabaya, proclaimed Abu Sayyaf spokesman.

European and Asian journalists had been arriving in Jolo almost daily such that this small town, unused to so many out-of-towners, could hardly accommodate them in the few inns available.

SIPADAN/ p.19

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Sipadan

(From page 18)

The PNP's Peacekeepers' Inn, the place of choice because of its safety as it is inside Camp Asturias, the Sulu police turf, had to build makeshift rooms. Some foreign journalists even set up tents in the inn's small backyard.

Seemingly unaware of the danger to their well-being, journalists devised ways to go to the Abu Sayyaf camps despite the strict prohibition given by Calimlim.

This provoked Ambassador Azzarouq to complain that their conduct could endanger lives and disrupt efforts to free the hostages.

"They're skipping all over the place like they were on a picnic," Azzarouq fumed.

Meanwhile the bandit leaders became increasingly worried when the negotiators stalled the talks. The hostages were losing weight rapidly, they were suffering from lack of food and water, and various illnesses in the mosquito-infested jungle that many of them would describe later as a "hell hole."

Worse, the bandits' followers—1,800 that month—many of whom were recruited to watch over the hostages, were becoming restless, both for the same reasons and for the promised compensation that was long in coming.

In July the talks were resumed. Shortly after, Libya, through Ghadafi's foundation, reportedly offered $25 million in ransom for the hostages.

Soon, they were released. First, Renate Wallert who had been reported ailing almost from the beginning of the ordeal. Then Filipina Lucrecia "Aida" Dablo, the three remaining women from the Sipadan group—Sonia, Marie Michelle and Monique together with Maryse Burgot of the French TV crew and Monique's husband, Carel.

The last batch of European hostages composed of the Finns and Marc Wallert were finally released on Sept. 8 and a few days later, the town of Jolo became awash with crisp P1,000 bills, along with a few hundred thousand in fake green bucks.

But a week after the helicopter bringing Marc, Seppo and Risto flew off the grounds of Camp Teodulfo Bautista, the Army headquarters in Jolo on Sept. 16, the Philippine military unleashed its might on the tiny island of Jolo in a surprise dawn offensive.

For two weeks, howitzers, helicopter gunships, fighter planes, naval cannos became a common sight. Transportation and communications services were immediately cut off. A naval blockade and ground cordon were set up.

During the offensive, the captives still being held were either rescued or escaped.

There were many reported cases of hundreds of innocent civilians being killed by bombardment, shelling and ground fire but most have yet to be confirmed and none may be. After all, dead men don't talk.

But the living do and until now, talk is still persistent on millions of pesos in cut-offs in the fabulous ransom payments. True or false?

Perhaps only Commander Robot and his gang of bandit leaders can tell us the truth behind the rumors.

The problem is, on year after they abducte the Sipadan 21 and sev eral others, and afte such a high cost in live on all sides, and th costs of war itself, t and all other Ab Sayyaf leaders are sti out there, waiting for th day when they will e free to enjoy their m- lions while Rolad Ullah still remains n their hands, waiting or the day when he will be set free.

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100,000	44,719	30,980	24,731	17,796	14,374	13,039

MODEL: Lancer GLX M/T
SRP: P615,000

TERM	12	18	24	36	48	60
Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
100,000	45,086	31,234	24,934	17,942	14,492	13,146

MODEL: Endeavor XT
SRP: P705,000

TERM	12	18	24	36	48	60
Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
100,000	51,684	35,805	28,583	20,567	16,613	15,069

MODEL: L300 FB - Dual Aircon
SRP: P542,000

TERM	12	18	24	36	48	60
Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
100,000	39,734	27,527	21,974	15,812	12,772	11,585

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

A MOTHER'S loss: Emiliana Dacer, 88, weeps during the memorial service for her murdered son, Salvador. DENNIS SABANGAN

Aircon jail cell awaits Erap

(From page A1)

"Any group of mercenaries who would attempt to harm (him) or make possible Mr. Estrada's escape should take a closer look. Mr. Estrada will be placed under maximum-security status," the source told the INQUIRER.

The facility is surrounded by a concrete wall, which isolates it from the rest of the compound. The "mercenaries" would have to penetrate the wall, followed by three layers of barbed wire fence, each of which is equipped with security locks, the source said.

He said that Mendoza opted to construct the facility to prevent any "disturbances" sparked by Estrada's imminent arrest and detention.

Tuesday

The official, who requested anonymity, said Estrada would be arrested on Tuesday.

Arresting officers will not use handcuffs as long as Estrada does not resist arrest and goes along with them peacefully as promised, Mendoza said in a separate interview.

Mendoza and Director Rex Piad, chief of the PNP directorial staff, will assist the sheriff of the Sandiganbayan in serving the warrant for the arrest.

"We assure Mr. Estrada that he will be accorded with dignity befitting his status as former president and his guaranteed constitutional rights as an accused will be respected and protected," Mendoza said.

"The rules and procedures as required by law on arrest and detention will be strictly observed."

Mendoza refused to reveal where Estrada would be detained except to say he would be provided with an "appropriate detention cell considering his . . . status as former president of the land."

Options that have been considered for incarcerating the former president include prison facilities in Camp Crame, Bicutan and at the Sandiganbayan itself.

However, the source said, Mendoza was concerned about the security situation in those places.

"If Estrada supporters mount a protest rally outside of, say, the Camp Crame detention center, the anti-Estrada camp will launch its own rally . . . The police would accomplish nothing but disperse crowds," the source said.

Security plan

A contingency security plan has been designed to control a crowd that is expected to prevent the police from arresting Estrada.

For 10 days now, members of various organizations under the Samahang Erap have been staging a picket to "guard" the Polk Street residence of Estrada in North Greenhills, San Juan.

Elements from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) and the National Bureau of Investigation are on standby to augment the security provided by the PNP.

"For the sake of the deposed president and in the interest of the country, it is best that Mr. Estrada is fully secured," Mendoza said.

Security at the anti-graft court is also being beefed up in anticipation of an announced protest rally on the premises tomorrow, said Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta.

"I'm meeting with officials of the Central Police District today to talk about plans for the expected large pro-Estrada rally on Monday," he said in a telephone interview yesterday.

He added that no warrant for Estrada's arrest had been issued as of yesterday afternoon.

Urieta with police officials have come up with "Oplan Payapa" to secure the premises in the case of Estrada's arrest and trial.

Spoiler

Talk about the impending arrest spoiled the 64th birthday party of the deposed president on Thursday, according to Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag.

A "very credible messenger" of a "very high government official" arrived at the party at Estrada's Greenhills home and announced that the indicted former president was going to be arrested on his birthday.

"On getting the news that he would be arrested right on his birthday, he (Estrada) sighed and said something like '*Hindi ko akalaing sasapitin ko ito.*' They could not even let him enjoy his party. They want to take every shred of dignity left in him," Saguisag added, even though the announcement had been a false alarm.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez announced on Friday that he expected the Sandiganbayan to issue a warrant of arrest against Estrada tomorrow.

Perez was quoted as saying that the issuance of the warrant was delayed because of a Saguisag motion asking the Sandiganbayan to postpone it for five days.

Saguisag denied this, saying that although he is a member of Estrada's legal team, he has not entered his appearance in any of the Sandiganbayan cases because of previous commitments.

"What the Estrada lawyers said . . . was that since the accused had been given five days to file his memorandum in the plunder case, no warrant could be issued (during) that period," Saguisag said.

Anti vs pro-Erap

Reacting to threats from Estrada supporters that a People Power III revolt is in the making, rival militant groups Sanlakas and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said it was not Estrada's arrest that would spark nationwide unrest but his continued freedom.

"The people will definitely rise up in protest over any failure of the Macapagal-Arroyo government to effect the arrest and prosecution of Estrada" said Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño in a statement.

But the Samahang Erap Movement contradicted claims that pro-Estrada groups would try to launch People Power III in the event of the ousted leader's arrest.

Johnny Santos, the group's national coordinator, said the group has not lost its belief in democracy and due process despite Estrada's ouster through a popular revolt.

"I don't think there is any need for a People Power III. Even (Estrada) has not encouraged us to do that for him. We will just wait for the outcome of this mess," Santos said.

No 'mob rule,' but . . .

"We still stand for justice, democracy and the Constitution. We will not resort to mob rule just to get what we want," he promised.

But he was quick to add that Estrada's supporters might rise in protest if they believed their hero was not getting a fair trial.

"We are giving due process a chance. We just hope that our president would be treated well. Otherwise, we will have no other recourse but to take to the streets," Santos warned.

He added that his group hoped that everything would be "set right" after the May 14 elections.

"The election will prove the people of Edsa People Power wrong. It will show that it was not only (Estrada) who fell victim to injustice when he was unseated, but also the millions of people who voted for him in 1998," Santos claimed.

Wrong reading?

Campaigning in San Carlos City, senatorial candidates of the administration's People Power Coalition seemed undisturbed by reelectionist Sen. Miriam Santiago's recent call for civil disobedience.

Candidate Francis Pangilinan said Estrada's allies were misreading the public's sentiments in the same way they had during the impeachment trial of Estrada.

Rep. Ralph Recto agreed that the opposition has "misread the public pulse," as he stressed that surveys showed that most Filipinos support the Macapagal administration.

Sen. Franklin Drilon dismissed as "political talk" Santiago's call for civil disobedience, while Sen. Juan Flavier urged the Estrada camp to let the law take its course.

"I assume he's (Estrada) innocent until proven guilty," Flavier told reporters. "So let the wheels of justice turn." ***With reports from Agnes Donato, Norman Bordadora, Jerome Aning and Christine Avendaño***

Orphaned . . .

(From page A1)

speech skills were hardly better than that of an 8-month-old baby.

Caring for and treating these special children cost about P500,000 a month, money that Ron says he and his wife have to virtually beg for each day.

Chosen Children had placed all the money it could spare—all P6.8 million of it—in Urban Bank. The money, Ron said, acted as a "crutch."

"In other words, if we fail to get sponsors for the children, and our expenses exceed collections that would come in for a given month, we could turn to that bank account and pull out P50,000," he explained.

The money was also a trust fund for the children, something that the Fullertons had hoped would earn enough interest to take care of the orphanage's daily needs.

"My wife and I are now in our fifties. I'm getting close to 60. We're not going to be here forever. We don't want 73 children to disappear into thin air. We have to provide for their needs," Ron said.

Mistake

The money for the children's future was placed in a bank Ron and Lita thought they could trust.

"It was a mistake," Ron says in retrospect.

Urban Bank declared a holiday on April 26 last year. The bank had to shut down because it barely had P200 million to service billions of pesos in withdrawals that had piled up over a period of several weeks. The bank's officials said the withdrawals, which had reached P4 billion, created a liquidity crisis that went out of control.

Regulators were to find out later that the real cause of Urban Bank's cash-flow problems was its top officials' decision to buy P4.6 billion worth of "trash receivables" from Urbancorp Investment Inc., a fact that was kept from the bank's directors and depositors.

"Precarious" was how Ron described Chosen Children's financial situation when it lost its Urban Bank money. The foundation's remaining reserve was some P700,000 in petty cash deposited at the BPI Family Bank. Unless help arrived or a miracle happened and Urban Bank were to quickly reopen, that money would not have lasted a month.

The first thing the Fullertons did was to keep a tight rein on expenses, making sure that monthly expenditures would equal the collections of the sponsorships.

It was a tightrope act.

Chosen Children sits on a 2.4-hectare lot in Silang, Cavite, that costs a huge sum to maintain. It has seven cottages run by 40 full-time employees: a nutritionist, several nurses and caregivers, and a support staff of clerks, security guards, cooks, gardeners and cleaners.

Special equipment, care

With their handicaps, the children need special equipment and medical care, and not just over-the-counter medicines. Regular visits have to be made to the Makati Medical Center and St. Luke's Hospital for consultations with specialists. In some cases, surgeries in the United States have to be arranged.

Construction projects became the first casualty of the financial crisis. When the Urban Bank fiasco occurred, Chosen Children was building its eighth cottage and laying the foundation for a ninth. In the first six months after Urban Bank closed down, donations for the construction projects did not flow in as fast before because the donors may have also been affected or were concerned about the solvency of other banks.

The foundation's construction schedule was set back by about six months because of Urban Bank's closure.

What the Fullertons found most painful, however, was having to put off plans to take in more children.

Fortunately for the children already in the orphanage, help did come, but it wasn't some "white knight" who, with one huge grant, took care of all the foundation's financial problems. Help came in small packages.

Since that day in 1989 when Chosen Children took in 12 orphans in a small, rented house in Las Piñas, it has always been Lita Fullerton's policy never to rely on any single group here or abroad for support.

Explains Ron: "We don't want to be tied to a large foundation or the Church, where they provide the funding and then all of a sudden, when they don't have the funds to give you, what do you do? This is my wife's way of thinking: These are Filipino children, this is a Filipino organization, Filipinos should take care of these children."

Sponsors' support

Chosen Children has survived mostly through the support of sponsors. Ron, a past president of the Rotary Club, used his connections to start the ball rolling. With the cost of sponsoring a child set at P200 a month, in time financial assistance trickled in from ordinary people—secretaries, government clerks, teachers—with an extraordinary desire to help others.

The orphanage now has more than a thousand sponsors and they are the ones who are keeping it alive.

Chosen Children has also set up a special program for its construction needs. For P6,000, sponsors get a plaque. For larger sums, they can have a room or a hall or an entire building named after them.

One room has been named after popular movie star Sharon Cuneta and her husband, lawyer Francis Pangilinan. Fastfood giant Jollibee Corp. has its name on one cottage.

Volunteer

Chosen Children has also largely run on volunteers' work. Medical schools like Far Eastern University and the Emilio Aguinaldo College regularly send interns—physical therapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists—to help out.

On weekends, when most of the orphanage's employees take the day off, seminarians help out with household chores. Nuns come in the afternoons to teach the children. Volunteers from other countries have also helped.

Doctors and specialists from St. Luke's Hospital and the Makati Medical Center provide services free of charge. These hospitals offer their facilities at no cost to the foundation.

On its own, Chosen Children has come up with some income-generating projects. It offers for a fee the use of dormitories and a gym for company conferences.

"You look for all these different angles to get income, to eventually help build up that little pot, so to speak," Ron said.

One year after Urban Bank shut down, Chosen Children is surviving, but its future and those of 73 orphans under its wing remain uncertain.

Ron is still waiting for a miracle, and hopes to see Urban Bank reopened one day.

For now, he can only wish that the people responsible for the bank's closure—people he knew quite well—have had time to pause and think about what they have done.

"I only hope that they have considered the number of people they have hurt: the old, the middle-aged, the children. I hope that is something that they think about," he said.

Sin: Hale and hearty appetite at 72

(From page A1)

millions of Filipinos ousted in Edsa II last January.

His lunch or dinner is usually capped by a glass of red or white wine or Cardinal Mendoza brandy.

While he enjoys seeing the cardinal's healthy appetite, Ramon keeps a close watch on his brother's kidneys, whose failure three years ago almost killed him.

"In 1998, his condition was really very bad," Ramon recalled.

For three weeks in September that year, the cardinal watched the political scene from his bed at the Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital.

Taking care of a cardinal, and Cardinal Sin at that, is not a simple task for Ramon and the other doctors.

"It's not easy to be a doctor of the cardinal. The responsibility is great. But so far, I think we're doing a good job," Ramon said.

Weakness

The cardinal's strength might have vanished that time, but his sense of humor and insatiable passion for good food remained. He often coaxed his doctors and relatives into allowing him to taste a little of what they were eating.

"As a patient, the cardinal was very obedient. But food remained his weakness," Ramon recalled fondly.

Seventeen years earlier, Sin had surgery for hyper-plastic polyps and his serious condition had alarmed people.

Ramon said his brother's active resistance against martial law since he became Archbishop of Manila in 1974 had taken its toll. But even in his sickbed, the cardinal continued to unleash his attacks against the Marcos dictatorship, one time even comparing it with Nazi Germany.

"Ever since, I've always been asking the cardinal to slow down. But he can't be slowed down," Ramon said.

The life-threatening ailments aside, the cardinal has proven he is fit.

From the heavy 205-pound frame he had when he first came to Manila 27 years ago, he had shaped up to 165 today, which according to Ramon is just "perfect" for his age and height.

Daily routine

The cardinal remains "stubborn" and shows no signs of slowing down.

He wakes up at 4 a.m. After celebrating morning Mass at Villa San Miguel at 5 a.m., he exercises and has physical therapy assisted by two male nurses.

After breakfast, he leaves Villa San Miguel at 6 a.m. for a series of meetings that usually run until the evening.

If his schedule allows it, the cardinal takes a one- to two-hour nap in the afternoon before he says Mass at 3 p.m. If he has no meetings, he goes to bed at 9 p.m.

"But if there's something that has to be done, he takes it upon himself to go," Ramon said.

In the case of Edsa II, Ramon recalled that he called up Villa San Miguel at about 9 p.m. of Jan. 16 but was told that his brother had already gone to bed.

Knowing the cardinal very well, he was surprised that his brother had decided to sleep even as furious protesters were gathering at the Edsa Shrine after pro-Estrada senators had succeeded in muzzling key evidence in the impeachment trial.

True to his instincts, Ramon received a "text" message in his cellular phone at 2 a.m. of Jan. 17 and was told that the cardinal had gone to Edsa.

He turned on his television set and saw Sin, fiery as ever, telling the people to stay vigilant until evil was conquered—an act similar to what Sin did 15 years ago.

THE SIN family get together for the graduation of Ramon from UST College of Medicine. Young priest Jaime is seated beside his father. (2nd row from left), Dr. Sin and his sisters Salvacion, Ceferina, Mary, Rosario and Manuel.

At the time, the cardinal seemed weak, the lump on his right eye pressed on his glasses and he took slow, calculated steps. Some had feared they might lose their hero soon.

But Ramon explained: "By golly, of course he would look weak. It was 2 a.m. and he's 72!"

He may look fragile but his senses remain clear; he easily recognizes people he knows. He calls even long-lost relatives and priests from his archdiocese and his birthplace by their first names.

As always, Sin is particularly keen and vocal when morality is at stake. Just recently, he vehemently objected to the public exhibition of "Live Show," an internationally acclaimed film that President Macapagal-Arroyo later described as "soft-porn."

"It's his obligation to guard morality. 'Live Show' was a moral issue and morality is not negotiable for him," Ramon said.

Today, the cardinal keeps a close watch on the new government, hoping and praying that it would finally succeed.

Should it fail, Filipinos need not worry, Ramon assured. "The cardinal will always be with us."

GMA ...

(From page A1)

dished out a "well-done" roast of the "Abu-sado" members of the press.

She called the Gridiron "Greedy-ron," as it charged P10,000 per plate for food that was "bad" held at a "lousy" place.

The staging of "Ang Glorya ni Gloria, alang Ka-Erap-Erap (The glory of Gloria entails no hardship)," at the old NPC building spoofed what happened in Edsa II and the preceding events that led to the downfall of President Estrada.

The ingredients of the roast of the "acting President" included her height; her desire to appoint Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, but not one of those recommended by her husband, Mr. Mike Arroyo; and her being a puppet of former Presidents Aquino and Ramos, and Cardinal Sin.

The President gamely danced with the Gridiron cast after the play, along with some of her Cabinet members, to the tune of "Ang galing ng Pilipino."

In the end, she received a standing ovation for being a "sport" and for sharing a few laughs in her hastily prepared speech that gave the cast of Gridiron a dose of their own medicine.

The President said that the food was "bad" and lousy considering its cost of P10,000 each.

"Talagang pilit ito. Biro niyo nung araw, P1,000 ang china-charge ninyo para sa Gridiron Night, ang sarap pa ng pagkain sa Manila Hotel. Ngayon P10,000, ang pangit-pangit ng pagkain (This is really contrived. Can you imagine, you used to charge only P1,000 for the Gridiron and the food was delicious at the Manila Hotel. Now it's P10,000 for really terrible food)," she said, earning applause from the surprised but amused crowd.

"Well, I hope that this "Greedy-ron," I mean Gridiron, is a tradition of the National Press Club. *Hindi ba Greedy-ron (ito)? P10,000 ang pangit-pangit ng pagkain*," she pointed out.

She went on to deny that she was a puppet of Aquino, Ramos and Cardinal Sin.

"I have a mind of my own. I am not influenced by FVR, Cardinal Sin, or at least not dictated on by them," she said.

"Teka muna (Wait a minute), (Press Secretary) Noel Cabrera *at* (Press Undersecretary) Bobby Capco, did you give advance warning to FVR that I am going to say that I am not his puppet. *Hindi yata eh.* Okay, I can say that tonight because FVR is out of the country," the President said.

Ms Macapagal said she gave the former President several special assignments abroad to be her representative "so he wouldn't get angry when I tell the National Press Club that I am not his puppet."

"But really I am independent. I make decisions based on what I think is best for the nation," she said.

She also described herself as "cute and short" and "above gossip."

Recounting what she read in a column at the INQUIRER, she said: "Somebody said that the National Press Club should not be accredited as an election watchdog by the Comelec because it's incapable of even washing it's own carpet."

"Hindi totoo yun, tingnan niyo wala kayong carpet. Kaya yun erroneous reporting (That's not true. You see, you have no carpet. That's erroneous reporting)," she said eliciting laughter.

That's democracy

She said she herself had been a victim of erroneous reports but that she didn't mind. "Anyway, that's democracy for you and I will take democracy anytime rather than the silence of the dictatorship. I like the silence of the graveyard for the Abu Sayyaf, but not for the Abu-sadong (abusive) media," Ms Macapagal said.

"Kahit na kayo ay abu-sado, I still want you to make your noise because I know that press freedom is vital to the operations of a democratic society such as ours," she said.

"But I wouldn't mind if you were nice to me once in a blue moon. After all, I attended your Gridiron even if it's in a lousy place with a lousy food. I even danced with you," she said.

The President said she had not thought of snubbing the Gridiron as former President Estrada did last year.

"That's the advantage of being a second generation President, because I remember from my Dad's time, every year he went, and my mother who absolutely was an intolerant person, every year, just had to bite her tongue and attend the Gridiron and pretend she was enjoying it all. So that's what I am doing tonight, I'm pretending I'm enjoying it all," she said.

She also responded to the reference in the Gridiron play about her husband. None of it is true, she said.

"He is always my loving and caring husband. *Ano pa ba ang nakalagay sa script tungkol kay Mike* (What else was in the script about Mike)?" she said.

After a brief pause, she said, *"Intay muna, darling, hindi mo pa nalilinisan iyong aking salamin. At saka kanina ha, hindi mo sinarado yung banyo sa kuarto natin* (Wait a minute, darling. You haven't cleaned my glasses. And also you didn't close the bathroom door in our bedroom)," eliciting another chorus of laughter.

THE PRESIDENT feasts on the goodies of the Mt. Province. VAL HANDUMON

Not so small

The President cracked a few jokes about her height at the start of her speech.

"Magandang gabi sa inyong lahat. Nandito ako. Nakikita ba ninyo ako (Good evening to everyone. I am here. Can you see me)?" she said.

"As BBC said, the camera is looking for the new President of the Philippines, but she is very small," she was referring to the broadcast of the British Broadcasting Corp. during her Jan. 20 oath-taking at the congested stage in front of the Edsa Shrine.

"Well obviously, I am not so small. BBC and CNN took note of me," she said.

She also made fun of herself as a "Kapampangan" who are known for their "silent H."

"I believe that the Lord is not a Lord of coincidences. *Lahat ng ginagawa niya sadya, kaya sadya niya akong ginawang Kapampangan. Kasi kung hindi niya ako ginawang Kapampangan, hindi masa-sabing walang ka-Erap-Erap* (The Lord made me a Kapampangan. If not, we can't be saying walang ka-Erap-Erap)," she said.

Despite the jokes on herself, Ms Macapagal admitted she did not have a sense of humor as she took "everybody seriously."

"So this speech of mine is more difficult than the speech I made in Edsa or many other speeches," she said.

"But thank goodness, you've laughed a few times. At least more or less, I can say that this speech is already successful," she said.

"But if we can still laugh at ourselves, then we are still in full possession of our mental faculties," she said.

The President said that after that evening, she hoped that she had "bonded somewhat some more" with the press.

"The PSG enjoyed your program most of all. And after this, you may pick up your copies of your new improved Nisa files on your way out," she said.

Kidding aside, she said she knew better than to spy on the press, or to get pissed off with their reports and commentaries.

She advised the press to "keep on writing."

She thanked the NPC for the "medium rare" roasting.

"I dread the thought of coming back next year when you've had a full year of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

FBI nabs ex-PCGG chief in con game

(From page A1)

Marcos provided an FBI undercover agent a fake 'safekeeping receipt' for a US$20-million share of the US$800-million gold certificate," the Post reported.

Sting

The arrested Castro was the director of Metro Grant Holdings, a company set up by Edilberto Marcos last year in Hong Kong, the Post said.

The PCGG, which is tasked with recovering the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator, denied any ties with the two arrested Filipinos.

Sarmiento said Castro, an Aquino administration official, was no longer connected to the agency and was not empowered to collect any taxes.

Edilberto Marcos is wanted by Hong Kong's anti-graft authorities over an alleged international plot to obtain credit using $148 billion in fake US Federal Reserve notes.

Hong Kong's International Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) chief investigator Stephen Sayell said his office was in contact with the US Department of Justice about the possible extradition to Hong Kong of the man claiming to be Marcos's son, the Post reported.

Remember Project Recovery?

Castro's name made headlines in 1999, when he claimed that he had entered into an agreement with the Estrada administration in connection with "Project Recovery," an alleged operation to recover the undisclosed assets of the Marcoses, including the alleged $13.2-billion account under Irene Araneta's name.

Castro first met with Del Carmen in Hong Kong, the source said.

He said that when Del Carmen inaugurated his office in Hong Kong, Castro was there along with relatives of former President Joseph Estrada.

The Post reported that Metro Grant Holdings was launched with a lavish HK$2-million party at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Hong Kong last August.

Excerpts

Other excerpts from the Post report by Victoria Button:

"A semi-automatic handgun, US$10,000 in cash and a checkbook were found among the (Marcos and Castro's) personal possessions after their arrest on Wednesday, according to an FBI deposition before the New York Southern District Court . . .

"The (safekeeping) receipt was purportedly issued by a Yugoslavia-based bank with branches in California and Hong Kong and called the Ambrite Overseas Bank, a bank the FBI alleges does not exist . . .

"The certificate was supposedly issued by the Lincoln Bank and Trust Company of the British West Indies which, Marcos claimed, was owned by the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) . . .

"In return for the US$20 million receipt, the undercover agent offered US$1 million and shares in a (brokerage) firm to be set up by the agent's fictitious client.

"'Marcos demanded that he be paid in cash,' Henderson said in the court deposition.

"The sting was set up after a New York security firm hired by Marcos in December approached authorities to complain.

"When Marcos' personal checks for the security services bounced, Marcos allegedly gave the firm a fictitious gold certificate issued by UBS. The US Federal Reserve told the firm the security was fake but Marcos had insisted it could be cashed with special codes.

"UBS also confirmed the security was fake.

"On April 1, the security firm told Marcos it knew someone who wanted money to set up a stockbroking firm in New York—and the FBI trap was laid.

"In Hong Kong, two men, Chase Tisoni, 58, and Stefan Langenstuck, 33, were arrested in March and charged with conspiring with Marcos to use false instruments.

"The men, who have not entered pleas and have been remanded in custody, are alleged to have tried to pass off US$100 million in fake US Federal Reserve notes as security when their checks bounced for a HK$1.6-million Hyatt Regency Hotel bill." *With reports from Donna Cueto, AFP*

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Chosen One

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

HOW can you not continue loving the PBA?

For one, like Japan's world-famed cherry blossoms, the league has not stopped amazing us with its consistent display of incredible performances. For another, the thrills it churns out, when they do come, hit you like action-packed Spielberg obras—in the mold of the classic Raiders of the Lost Ark.

The unexpected happens seemingly all the time that I'm beginning to think the PBA, like Tiger Woods, is also a Chosen One. Blasphemous? Ah!

To illustrate, just two nights ago, Barangay Ginebra won when it should have not.

It happened the first time it battled Purefoods. Win by a point. On a layup by Vergel Meneses.

In the rubber match, Ginebra did it again. Duplicate the virtuoso performance: Win by a point. This time, not exactly nicely done but instead, eerily done.

How can Ronald Magtulis, not known to unleash the killer blows for Ginebra, sink the year's most awkward shot, when time was expiring at that, and his team's survival was on the line?

"Really, I believe that it's better to be lucky than good," said Ed Mapa, a retired Shell executive.

Magtulis, a rookie, broke all basketball basics when he tossed in the winning basket: Doing it sideview from about 12 feet away, as though executing a *pandanggo sa ilaw* number. The situation called for it. Four opponents were near him when he made the shot, their mouths agape. When it hit the heart of the goal, Philsports shook from the roar of a crowd that is fatally, hopelessly, enamored with Ginebra like Glenn Close was to Michael Douglas in the film Fatal Attraction.

The eeriest thing is, the Gin Kings did it twice to a team that was not supposed to lose to them even once.

Thus, to repeat, how can you not continue loving the PBA? Or, to be precise, Barangay Ginebra?

Spielberg never sleeps.

RED BULL, ALASKA READY

SMB, Pop slightly favored

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
5:15 p.m. – Alaska vs Pop Cola
7:30 p.m. – SMB vs Red Bull

SAN Miguel Beer and Pop Cola, pushed to the wall by their dauntless quarterfinal foes, are still slightly favored today in their quest for semifinal slots in the PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Beermen battle the Batang Red Bull Thunder at 7:30 p.m. after the 5:15 p.m. opener between the Panthers and the Alaska Milk Aces.

Shell Velocity and Barangay Ginebra won the first two semifinal seats on Friday in contrasting manners.

The Turbochargers ousted the Mobiline Phone Pals, 80-69, while the Kings nipped the Purefoods Hotdogs, 70-69, on a Hail Mary fadeaway by Ronald Magtulis with 1.9 seconds remaining in the game.

In their game Wednesday night, the Beermen seemed to take the Thunder lightly and lost, 85-73.

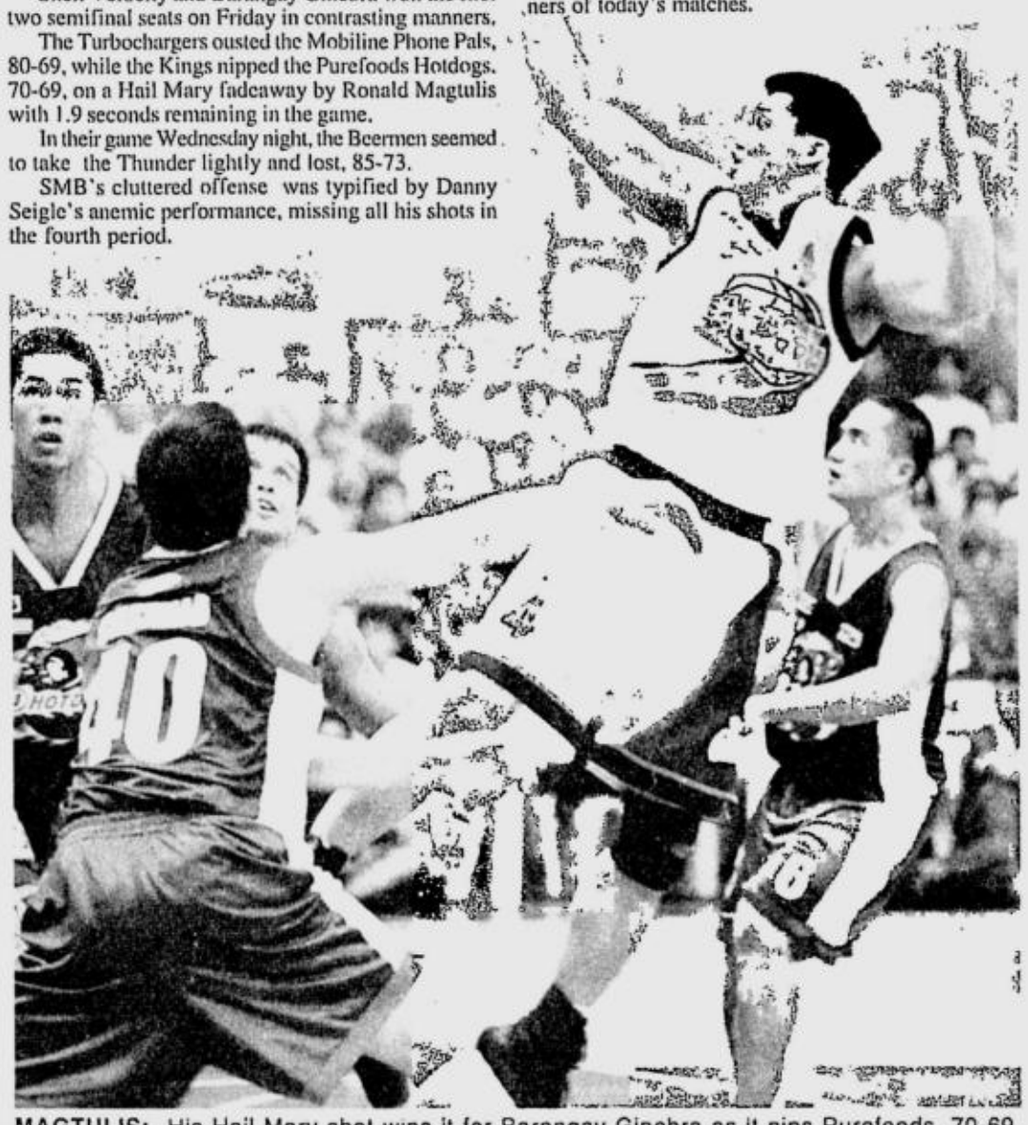
SMB's cluttered offense was typified by Danny Seigle's anemic performance, missing all his shots in the fourth period.

Red Bull found new strength in Mick Pennisi and Jimwell Torion, who rejoined the Thunder from the injured list.

SMB coach Jong Uichico may have to use newly acquired Dorian Peña to backstop Danny Ildefonso and Nic Belasco in the shaded area.

If the Panthers lose to Alaska, it would be like a double-whammy had been inflicted on Johnny Abarrientos and Poch Juinio, who are still smarting from their sudden banishment from Alaska at the start of the season.

Shell and Ginebra will start their best-of-five semifinal series on Wednesday in the company of the winners of today's matches.



MAGTULIS: His Hail Mary shot wins it for Barangay Ginebra as it nips Purefoods, 70-69, Friday night in the PBA All-Filipino Conference. Hotdogs' (from left) Rey Evangelista, Alvin Patrimonio and Boyet Fernandez all looked stunned after Magtulis uncorked the shot. Back to camera is Purefoods' Noy Castillo. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Shark 5, Ana prevail again

BY DENNIS U. EROA

DEADLY Shark Energy Drink and surprising Ana Freezer posted contrasting victories and kept their front-running positions yesterday in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Shark coach Leo Austria fielded in all his 15 players as the Power Boosters spanked the Ateneo-Pioneer Insurers, 81-58, while the Freezer Kings toyed with defeat before downing tailenders Osaka Iridologists, 79-72.

Shark duplicated its 6-0 start in the Challenge Cup which it captured over Welcoat in a memorable best-of-seven title series that went the distance.

Ana team owner Rudy Mendoza recorded his fourth straight win as head coach. Ana improved to 5-1.

As usual, Chester Tolomia and Gilbert Malabanan led the scoring parade for Shark with 21 and 15, respectively, but Shark's role players also gained the limelight.

Defender Bong Salvador completed a three-point play which gave Shark a 68-44 lead in the fourth quarter. Playmaker Jun Balares, forward Rico Limare, Ken Gumpenberger and Manuel Caceres frolicked in the face of Ateneo's token resistance.

For the second straight game, Ana needed a fourth-quarter surge to score a win. Pointguard Paul Artadi earned praise with his glowing shows.

The 5-foot-9 Artadi, a UE Red Warrior, erupted with 14 points, six came in the final three minutes which iced Ana's comeback. Ronald Tubid and Dondon Mendoza played consistently as Ana erased a 60-66 deficit, 4:34 remaining.

Scores:

FIRST GAME

ANA FREEZER 79—Tubid 22, Mendoza D. 16, Artadi 14, Mendez 12, Mendoza 9, Pascual 6, Capus 0, Torres 0, Vilar 0, De Castro 0.

OSAKA IRIDOLOGY 72—Daep 16, Wilson 13, Ramos 10, Castro 9, Cuan 6, Omolon 6, Franco 4, Sta Maria 4, Cabanayan 4, Magsumbol 0.

Quarters:11-14,33-28,51-52,79-72

SECOND GAME

SHARK 81—Tolomia 21, Malabanan 15, Ybañez 8, Caceres 7, Salvador 6, Castro 5, Robinson 3, Limare 3, Balares 2, Basilides 2, Soto 2, Rodriguez 2, Ortega 0 Garcia 0.

ATENEO-PIONEER 58-Villanueva 12, Ferrer 11, Alvarez 8, Sison 7, Antonio 6, Victoria 5, Cruz 4, Quimpo 2, Tan Chi 2, Yao 1, Benitez 0.

Quarters:21-16,42-29,65-44,81-58

76ers tackle Pacers as NBA playoffs start

PHILADELPHIA—Despite finishing with the best record in the Eastern Conference, the Philadelphia 76ers feel they haven't gotten as much respect as the elite teams in the West.

"People have been waiting for us to slip all season," said Aaron McKie, perhaps the best sixth man in the league. "People kept saying we're not that good. We have to go out and prove it. We were picked to finish in the middle of the pack. We have to impose our will, let teams know we are for real."

The Indiana Pacers will get first crack at the Sixers when their best-of-five series in the first round of the NBA playoffs begins today at Philadelphia's First Union Center.

In the other first round series opening games, it will be Dallas at Utah, Minnesota at San Antonio and Charlotte at Miami.

Indiana, the defending East champions, has knocked Philadelphia out of the playoffs in the second round the last two years.

But these aren't the same Pacers. Gone from last year's team are Rik Smits, Mark Jackson, Dale Davis and Chris Mullin. *AP*

Head-Penn listing

REGISTRATION is now open for the Head-Penn Metro Age Group Tennis Championships on April 24-29 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Events on tap are boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under. Deadline of entry is on April 23 at 12 noon.

The country's top junior players are expected to see action in the Philta-sanctioned Group 1 tournament that is also supported by Chris Sports, Dreyers Ice cream, Agfa and Red Bull.

A photo contest will also be held during the tournament.

Meanwhile, top seeds Andrick de Castro and Raymond Villarete of La Salle-Greenhills ruled their respective events yesterday at the close of the Truflex National Age Group Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

De Castro nailed the boys' 16-under title over seventh seed Janjie Soquino of Cebu, 6-4, 7-5, and Villarete blasted No. 6 Gerard Bergavera of Bacolod, 6-0, 6-0, to claim the boys' 12-under crown.

Hingis, Capriati win

CHARLESTON, South Carolina —Martina Hingis won her 13th straight match in the Family Circle Cup, beating Amelie Mauresmo, 7-5, 6-2, in the quarterfinals Friday. Hingis, the top seed, joined No. 2 Jennifer Capriati in Saturday's semifinals. Capriati defeated unseeded Elena Likhovtseva, 7-5, 6-4.

The Hingis-Mauresmo match was one of the tournament's most anticipated. Hingis is the world's No. 1 player and hadn't lost a Family Circle match in five years. No. 7 Mauresmo had won her past three tournaments and 16 matches in a row.

Hingis was in command after a tight first set. With the score 5-5, she won eight of the next 10 games.

"The pressure was on her," Hingis said. "Even though she's won tournaments, she has not beaten the Williams sisters or (Lindsay) Davenport or other top players. I wanted to stop her winning streak."

Hingis will play two-time Family Circle champion Conchita Martinez, who defeated No. 10 Amy Frazier 6-3, 6-1. *AP*

Foundation University I makes finals

GLENDA Pintolo (left) and Cecile Tabuena of University St. La Salle Bacolod during their losing stand yesterday in Boracay.

BY JUNE NAVARRO

BORACAY ISLAND—Foundation University I rallied to beat Foundation II yesterday to barge into the finals of the 5th Nestea Beach Volley University Challenge at the sweltering Galaxy Resort here.

Foundation I aces Edward Balbuena and Isidro Bongcasan repulsed Kent Bulabon and Ralph Mingueto of Foundation II, 9-21, 24-22, 15-10.

They will await the result of the knockout match between Foundation Ii and University of San Jose Recoletos I for the titular showdown.

Play was halted during the second set of the USJR I-USJR II tussle after USJR II's Dave Arreza suffered an asthma attack.

Jamal Macasamat and Jerome Capada of USJR I took the first set, 22-20, before the incident happened.

San Sebastian College beat South Western University, 21-16, 21-14, to force a collision against Foundation I for a finals slot.

The tournament, the concluding part of the Nestea Loves the Beach program, is sponsored by Galaxy Resorts, Club 10, Gorio's, Hey Jude, Willy's and Floremar Pizzeria da Mario Ristorante Italiano, Dunkin Donuts, Nescafe Frothe, Astring O-Sol Inc., Westin Philippine Plaza, Mikasa, Speedo and Milo.

Ramirez, Ong favored in Subic

KOOKIE Ramirez of Petron-SRA and Ferdinand Ong of Rota-Speedwelle-Outlast Battery will be the top favorites in the third and fourth rounds of 2001 Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway in Olongapo City today.

Ramirez, who ruled the kickoff round, and Ong, who topped the second round, will seek decisive victories and the early lead in the centerpiece Blaze super saloon category in this annual series being held for the eighth straight year.

Miñoza 10 behind

FRANKIE Miñoza again fell victim to the tough opening holes of the course but still managed to match par 71 to climb 20 rungs up the standings in the Kirin Open, also known as the Asia-Pacific Open at the Ibaragi Golf Club in Japan. After barely making it to the weekend rounds, the in-form Miñoza jumped from a share of 53rd spot to a tie for 33rd going into today's 18 holes. His 214 aggregate was 10 shots off the 204 total of solo leader Shingo Katayama. *Jong Arcano*

Golf Power on '13'

GOLF Power will feature today a series of golf lessons by the golf guru Chris Walkey at 3 p.m. on IBC 13. Walkey, a former staff member of the David Leadbetter Golf Academy, is one of the top teaching pros in the United States. This episode, hosted by Gerard Cantada, is perfect for those looking to pick up tips and pointers on how to improve different aspects of their games. The show also includes a glimpse into the Milo Summer Junior Golf Clinic conducted at the Joe Cantada Golf Learning Center.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Marinela 2. Be Happy 3. King Aldrin 4. Cool Zam 5. Harvesting Game

Race 2—1. Batangas Entry 2. Free Bee 3. Dynamite Miss

Race 3—1. The Serpent 2. Imus Emperor 3. Sky Wind 4. Baby Maxxine 5. Timber Nectar

Race 4—1. Patikim 2. Staunch Ally 3. Bidang Bida 4. Looks Like It

Race 5—1. Bulwak 2. Freshman 3. Something Silver 4. Miggy 5. Arigato

Race 6—1. Monty's Angel 2. Air Love 3. Strong Bird 4. Strong Wind 5. Legitimo

Race 7—1. Deputy Royale 2. Mrs. Big 3. First of All 4. Aya's Dream 5. Dynasty

Race 8—1. Speed Master 2. Godlen Eagle 3. Sky Hawk

Race 9—1. The Fox 2. Streets of Gold 3. Mr. Purao 4. Power Drive 5. Gallant Quest

Race 10—1. Time Street 2. Royal Diamond 3. Air Express 4. Expose 5. Diamond Forever

Race 11—1. Greely Good 2. Absolute Power 3. Khan Caloo 4. En Carta 5. Arriba Queen

Race 12—1. Wendy's Pride 2. Reign of Glory 3. Bold Freddy 4. Raise A Fire 5. The Topnotcher

Race 13—1. Super Dancer 2. Houdini 3. Cara Bambina 4. Padron Real

Race 14—1. Baptism of Fire 2. Something Different 3. Green Leaves 4. Bemedalled Ruler 5. Corporate Law

'Lameduck chairman'

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

WHO will be the next chairman of the Philippine Racing Commission?

Reader Allan Abad of Makati wrote us to share his choices with the whole *bayang kareristas*. Here it is:

Mr. Edwin Villanueva
One Winner
c/o Phil. Daily Inquirer
Pasong Tamo, Makati City

Dear Mr. Villanueva:

Nababasa ko palagi ang column *mo* for the past few weeks *para naman ma*-update *ako sa mga pagbabago sa karera* especially *sa* leadership *ng* Philippine Racing Commission. *Interesado ako sa gagawing pagbabago sa* commission *para naman ma-proteksyonan na talaga ang* interest *naming* betting public.

Pero nababahala ako sa mga sinasabing candidates *sa pagka*-chairman. *Ang ugong sa loob ng kareraha*n *ay ang dating* pelotari *na si* Andrew Sanchez *daw ang pupalit sa* lameduck chairman *ngayon. Nakakabahala ito dahil maraming nakaka-alam sa pagiging* involved *ni* Sanchez *sa* game fixing *sa* jai-alai *noong panahon niya. At alam din natin na kapatid ng kanyang asawa ang* notorious *na* bookie operator *sa* Pasay. How can he protect the betting public?

May nagsasabi naman na si Commissioner Balatbat *ang susunod. Pero hindi ba na*-convict *na siya dati ng* Ombudsman? *Hindi matatanggap ng* betting public *ang mga may* record *na sa bayan.*

Bakit nga ba hindi natin i-consider *si* Atty. Roberto Reverente? *Dati na siyang sa* GAB *at ngayon ay* EVP *sa* San Lazaro. *May* experience *na sya at siguradong makakatulong sa* industry. *Puwede din naman ibalik si* Antonio Lagdameo *kasi okay naman ang* performance *nya noong siya ay* Chairman *pa.* Actually, ambassador-type *talaga si* Lagdameo *pero kung sya ay mababalik sa* Commission *ay okay lang sa amin.*

Kailangan talaga natin ng isang matatag na leader *para maiwasan ulit yung mga kabayong nananalo na wala naman sa programa tulad ng nangyari sa* Santa Ana.

Mabuhay ka Edwin!!!

ALLAN ABAD, Unit 305, 3rd flr., Erechem Bldg., Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

***

My good friend, businessman Joey Dy, is smiling a lot these days because his wife Connie is doing very well in the surveys in the congressional race for Pasay's lone district.

The Dys have never ceased to be active in various civic and charity projects which benefitted the urban poor in the city since 1980.

One of those projects was the Gloria Macapagal Arroyo-Connie Dy Poverty Alleviation Center in Malibay which was launched when GMA was still vice president.

***Kareristas* in Pasay say Connie Dy will be their *patok na patok* in the coming polls!**

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Sunday SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ◪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Biag rules kiddies' chess

IVAN Gil Biag of Dasmariñas, Cavite capitalized on his positional plays to emerge champion in the 2nd leg of the Kiddies (under-14) Active Open held at the Philippine Chess Confer-Quezon City last Friday.

RP boxer wins gold

Payla whips Cuban rival

LA LISA,Cuba—Violito Payla delivered on his very first international outing when he captured the flyweight gold medal over an equally promising Cuban fighter in the 7th Balado Cup boxing tournament ended Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) at the La Vereda Plaza here.

The Philippine national anthem was played during the closing ceremonies of the six-nation tournament after Payla, a 5-foot-4, 22-year-old son of a mango plantation caretaker in Cagayan de Oro, received the gold medal for Team Caltex Philippines.

Payla, who was also named the best foreign boxer in the tournament held in honor of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics champion who died in a car crash in 1994, won the gold following his convincing 5-0 victory over Rodolfo Perez, a member of the Cuban national squad.

Team Caltex Philippines, also supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Pacific Heights and Adidas, also scored victories off the ring as Gregorio Caliwan was named the best foreign coach, and veteran Amateur International Boxing Association (AIBA) referee/judge Darcito Teodoro the best referee.

It was the first taste of international competition for the left-handed Payla, who hardly showed any inexperience on the ring. He pummeled his opponent with his steady cross-straight combinations and vicious body blows, leading to a standing eight count for his Cuban foe with barely three seconds left in their 51 kg. match.

Payla's victory avenged the heartbreaking 1-2 loss by lightfly Danilo Lerio against another Cuban, 1997 world youth champion Andy Lafita, in the finals. Lerio won the silver which went with the two bronze medals for the team courtesy of his older brother in bantamweight Arlan and lightwelter Romeo Brin.

Philippine amateur boxing president Manny Lopez commended the team for the job well done.

"Mission accomplished once again, we are proud of our boxers," he said.

LEWIS

RAHMAN

Lewis battles Rahman today

VIVA Vintage Sports will telecast today's world heavyweight championship fight between Lennox Lewis and Hasim Rahman via satellite from Carnival City, Johannesburg, South Africa, starting at 11:30 a.m. on RPN-9.

Lewis is a prohibitive favorite to retain the WBC-IBF titles. The 6-5 champion from Britain weighed in officially yesterday at 253 pounds, the highest of his career. The 6-2 Rahman weighed 237 pounds.

Lewis—"The Lion"—has been out of sight for much of his preparation, staying in his training camp. Critics say he might pay the price for arriving only two weeks before the fight, with little time to get used to the 5,200-foot altitude.

Rahman—"The Rock"—came here two weeks earlier and might be better acclimated. Capable of taking a big punch, the 29-year-old from Baltimore, Maryland, is confident that he will take over midway through the fight.

Lewis, who predicts a victory in four rounds, said he is not worried about the altitude. "I have boxed at altitude many times," he said. "I have traveled the world, as an amateur and professional, many times and I am used to it.

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ 'Rich' teener, baby found floating A27

■ Pasay warns motels with big billboards A27

Beheading suspects escape

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE HEAD of the Batasan Hills police station yesterday was relieved of his command for allegedly abetting the escape of two policemen linked to the beheading of three young men in Quezon City.

A police source close to the investigation told the Inquirer that Supt. Jolly B. Dizon was relieved of his post as head of CPD Station 6 because he helped two of the three arrested policemen escape from Camp Karingal in Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.

The three policemen are all assigned to Station 6, the source said.

The source also claimed that CPD officials ordered Dizon to produce the two missing suspects or face more serious sanctions.

But Central Police District officials denied that Dizon's relief had anything to do with the beheading case.

Dizon was removed from his post because he had been in that position too long, said Senior

BEHEADING/ A27

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

LOVE of work is one of his blessings, says delivery man Dante Pagaduan, closely watched by his satisfied boss, Merle Alferez.

Dream comes true for hard-working delivery man

BY CECILE G. GARCIA

TALES OF THE CITY

FOR Dante Pagaduan, 13 is a lucky number. It was his 13th job that gave him the break he needed.

Also in his 13th and present job, what he had always thought as an impossible dream came true.

Pagaduan, 32, says he had no inkling that life was about to take a different turn in May 1997 when his job contract with Sta. Lucia East Commercial Center was about to expire. He had worked at the mall as a salesman in a liquor store, an

DREAM/ A27

Snatchers kill Jollibee worker over 3310 phone

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

JOLLIBEE crewmember Richard B. Aumentado was shot dead in front of his sister, brother and girlfriend by two cell phone snatchers whom he tried to fight off in Quezon City on Friday night.

Aumentado, of 85 T. Morato Avenue, Barangay Kamuning, Quezon City, died from a single gunshot wound after the two unidentified snatchers shot him with a *sumpak* (homemade shotgun) and took his Nokia 3310, said investigator SPO3 Resty De Leon of the

SNATCHERS/ A27

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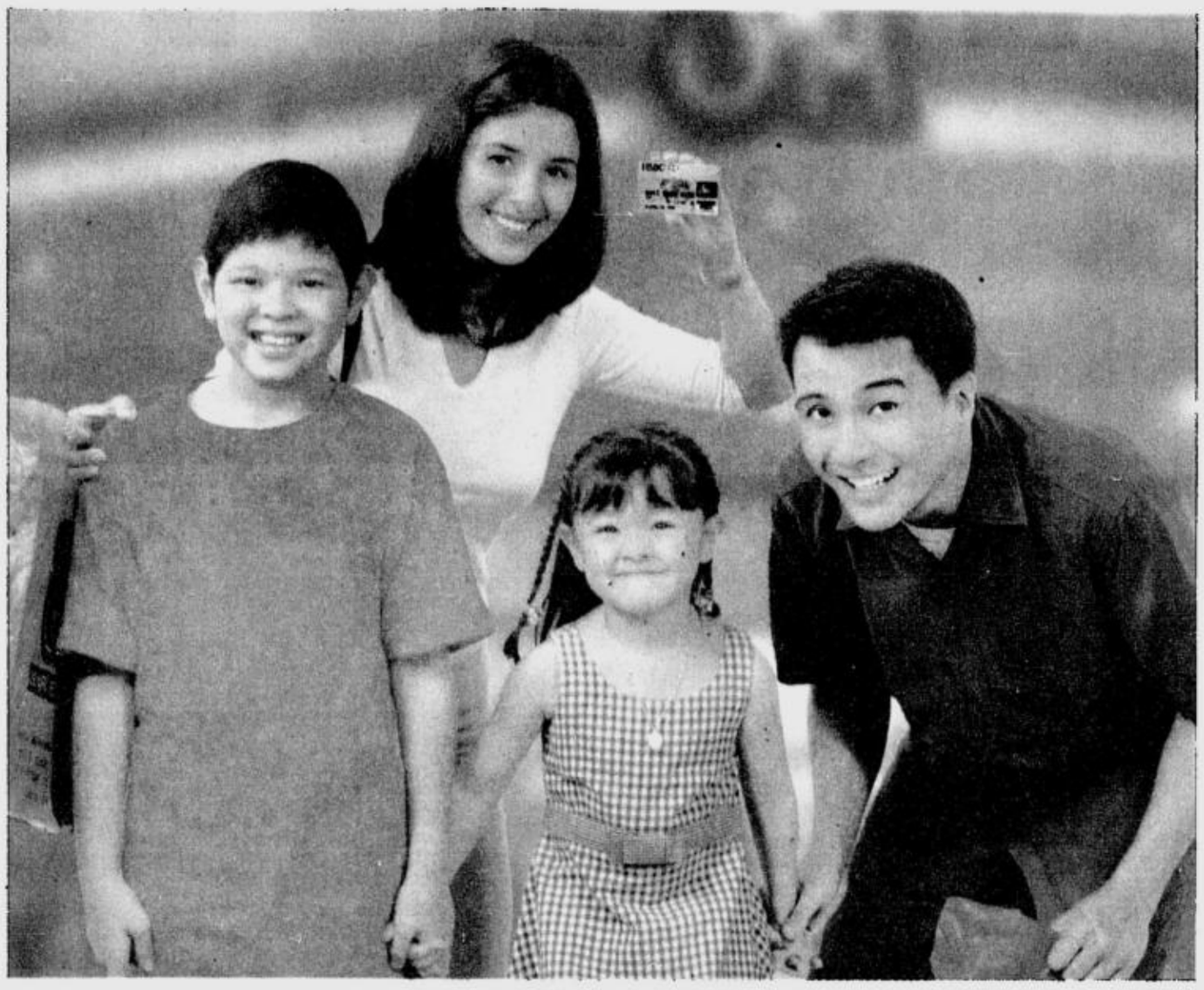

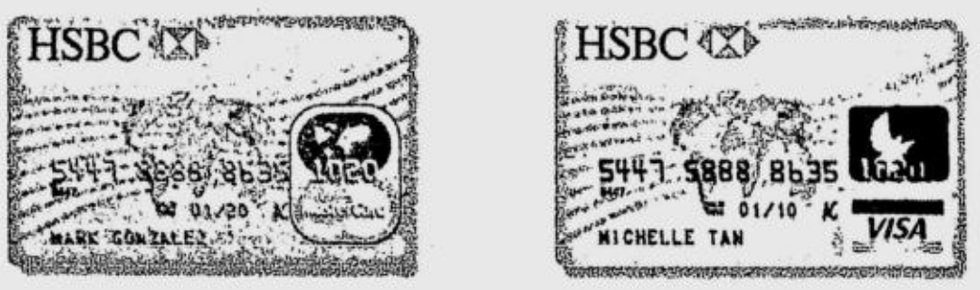

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Pasay warns motels with big billboards

BY ALCUIN PAPA

THE PASAY City government has warned it would close down around 10 motels in the city for ignoring a city ordinance that prohibits them from putting up large billboards that it says distract motorists.

Senior Insp. Sammy Turla, chief of Pasay Police Station 6, said a notice of warning had been sent to eight motels in Pasay City.

These include Victoria Court, the Cuneta and Baclaran branches of Anito, the Kamagong Diamond Inn, the Royal Blue Marlin, Sinta Court and Liza Lodge along Cuneta and F.B. Harrison avenues.

Turla's order was based on City Ordinance No. 204 which was sponsored by Councilor Teddy Lorca Jr. in 1994.

The motels had been ordered to remove their signboards, billboards, and other structures that make public sidewalks dirty and difficult to use.

The ordinance says the motels are prohibited from putting up signboards, streamers or any structures at any public place that can cause distraction to tourists and motorists.

Violators will be fined P500 for the first offense and P1,000 for the second offense. For the third offense, the establishments will be issued a closure order and their business permit will be canceled.

Turla alleged that after the ordinance was passed, no local government office enforced it because the Pasay City motels bribed city officials with as much as P200,000 every month.

Up to the present, only two of the motels in the city have complied with the ordinance and the subsequent warnings.

With Jojo Arazas, Roy Jolito

'Rich' teener, baby found floating

BY JEROME ANING

THE BODIES of two boys—a teenager whom police said "looked rich," and a baby—were fished out of the water off the South Harbor and in the Pasig River yesterday morning.

The baby boy, still in diapers and a white shirt, was clinging to a feeding bottle when Emilda Abele, 43, found him floating by the Pasig River's northern bank near Abele's residence on Muella de la Industria Street in Binondo at about 7 a.m., police said.

Abele and her neighbors could not identify the baby. Police said the baby could have been dead when it was thrown into the river.

At the South Harbor, the body of a teenage boy was fished out of the waters where the presidential yacht *Ang Pangulo* was docked.

SPO3 Ernesto Jose Jr. of the Western Police District homicide section said the boy was between 12 and 15 years old, about 5 feet tall, fair-skinned and clad only in black Calvin Klein briefs.

The crewmen of a tugboat discovered the body at 5:40 a.m. floating near the *Ang Pangulo* which was docked at Pier 15 at the South Harbor in Port Area.

At 7 a.m., the crewmen informed PO1 Carlito Majaducon of the Philippine Coast Guard about the dead boy.

SPO3 Jose said the teener's body was in the early stages of decomposition. He said there were no signs of external injury, which could mean that the boy drowned.

The investigator, who said the teenager "looked rich," is now trying to determine if the boy's Calvin Klein underwear was genuine—meaning, more expensive than the usual brands.

But SPO3 Jose has not discounted the possibility that the young man could have been one of the boys who frequent the Port Area to play and swim.

The two bodies were taken to the Tres Amigos Funeral Parlor in Paco for autopsy.

In Sta. Cruz, Manila, a barangay official found a dead 6-month-old male fetus at a trash site.

Rodolfo Marinda found the body at the corner of Andalucia and Fugoso streets in Barangay 311, at about 6 a.m., police said.

The *kagawad* said the fetus was in a wooden box.

The fetus was taken to the Sanctuary Funeral Homes in Sta. Cruz. *With JP Andaquig*

Recruiter gets 22 years for duping jobseekers

AN ILLEGAL recruiter on Friday was sentenced to a 22-year jail term by a Makati judge for duping three jobseekers in 1999.

Leonila Capulong, alias Daisy Castro and Margie Laureto, was sentenced by Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Sixto Marilla.

Court records say the case stemmed from a complaint filed in 1999 by Edith Ortez, Marie Munoz, Leopoldo Baniqued, all residents of Makati.

The three complainants said that on Aug. 30, 1999, they met Capulong at the residence of a certain Yoly Bustamante on Guijo Street in Barangay Cembo in Makati.

Capulong offered to help the three jobseekers in finding employment in Saudi Arabia as food attendants. In exchange, she asked for an initial payment of P13,000 from them, the complainants said.

The three were convinced and gave her the money.

A few months passed and the three never heard from Capulong again. They said they did a background check of the accused with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and other government offices and they learned that Capulong was an illegal recruiter.

They said that near the end of 1999, they went to the Makati police to file their complaint. Capulong was arrested soon after.

Judge Marilla said in his decision that based on the evidence gathered by investigators and on the the "convincing" testimonies of the complainants, he found Capulong guilty of the crime.

He also ordered Capulong to pay the three complainants P15,000 in damages.

Alcuin Papa

CAGED KIDS

Dazed, confused, scared, scarred children were rounded up by Western Police District members on Friday for turnover to the "Sagip-Kalinga" of the city's social welfare department. The lawmen gathered more than 300 streetchildren from the streets of Manila. ERIK ARAZAS

No fire-fighting equipment in BI jail, inmates say

BY ALCUIN PAPA

INMATES of the Bureau of Immigration jail in Bicutan, Taguig have complained to the town's fire chief that the detention center has no fire fighting equipment.

Canadian detainee Raymund Jackson told the INQUIRER he sent a letter to Taguig fire chief Fire Insp. Edgar Villanueva last month about the lack of firefighting equipment like fire extinguishers in the center.

Jackson noted that a fire broke out last month in the center.

"This facility has no fire fighting equipment whatsoever like fire extinguishers," he said. "Recently a fire broke out and threw the foreigners here into a panic. There has been no effort on the part of the immigration bureau to provide for the fire safety (of the inmates)."

He reminded Villanueva that the BI detention center housing more than 100 foreigners inside Camp Bagong Diwa falls under his jurisdiction as fire chief.

The foreigners also requested Villanueva to inspect the detention center and "recommend the appropriate equipment required."

Jackson said that "some frustrated inmates who have been here for years without reason" had threatened to set the detention center on fire because of the "hopelessness and frustration" they are feeling in detention.

"God forbid if the place is set on fire and these foreigners get roasted," said Jackson. "It would make worldwide news."

He reminded Villanueva that the inmates had already brought to the attention of the fire chief the lack of fire extinguishers in the center as early as August 2000.

Veterans mark Yultong's 50th anniversary

KOREAN War veterans who fought as members of the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (Peftok) will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Yultong, said to be the greatest defensive battle fought by the Philippines at the Libingan ng mga Bayani today.

Veterans from the 10th Battalion Combat Team (motorized) that fought in the Battle of Yultong and from Peftok's four other BCTs are expected to reunite at the Korean War memorial pylon at 7:30 a.m.

They will be honored by the Philippine Army and by representatives of the South Korean government led by Ambassador Shin Sung-Oh.

Ambassador Shin, Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos, Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Castro (ret.) and Col. Manuel de Ocampo (ret.) will lay wreaths at the Korean War memorial pylon on which is engraved the names of Filipinos killed in action during the Korean War (1950-1955).

Wreaths will also be laid by widows of Korean War veterans, as well as by orphans and the families of survivors of the conflict that killed close to 100 Filipino soldiers and wounded more than 300.

More than 7,000 Army soldiers served under the United Nations Command during the Korean War.

Fought from April 22 to 23, 1951, the Battle of Yultong saw 900 men of the 10th BCT, commanded by the late Col. Dionisio Ojeda, withstand massive and unrelenting attacks by the Chinese People's Volunteers' 12th Army in the area of Yultong, now in North Korea.

This army, consisting of 40,000 men, took part in ferocious counterattacks by 250,000 Chinese and North Koreans that developed into the biggest battle of the Korean War.

The Battle of Yultong is associated with the saga of Tank (Heavy Weapons) Company and two friends — Capt. Conrado Yap, Tank Company CO, and Lt. Jose Artiaga Jr., 1st platoon commander.

Yap and Artiaga were both killed in action in Yultong.

The total number of Filipino casualties in the battle were 10 dead, 26 wounded and 14 missing in action.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, April 22, 2001
2nd Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 5:12-16**

Many miraculous signs and wonders were done among the people through the hands of the apostles. The believers, of one accord, used to meet in Solomon's Porch. None of the others dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. So an ever increasing number of men and women, believed in the Lord. The people carried the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and on mats, so that when Peter passed by, at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those who were troubled by unclean spirits, and all of them were healed.

2nd Reading: **Rev 1:9-13, 17-19**

I, John, your brother, who share with you, in Jesus, the sufferings, the kingdom and the patient endurance, was on the island of Patmos, because of the Word of God and witnessing to Jesus. On the Lord's day, the Spirit took possession of me and I heard a voice behind me which sounded like a trumpet, "Write down all that you see, in a book, and send it to the seven Churches of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

I turned to see who was speaking to me; behind me were seven golden lampstands and, in the middle of these, I saw someone like a *son of man,* dressed in a long robe tied with a golden girdle.

Seeing him, I fell at his feet like one dead but he touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid. It is I, the First and the Last. I am the living one; I was dead and now I am alive for ever and ever; and mine are the keys of death and the netherworld. Now write what you have seen, both what is and what is yet to come."

Gospel: **Jn 20:19-31**

On the evening of that day, the first day after the sabbath, the doors were locked where the disciples were, because of their fear of the Jews, but Jesus came and stood in their midst. He said to them, "Peace be with you"; then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples kept looking at the *Lord* and were full of joy.

Again Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." After saying this he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit; for those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained."

Thomas, the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We have seen the *Lord.*" But he replied, "Until I have seen in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, the disciples were inside again and Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors Jesus came and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands; stretch out your hand and put it into my side. Resist no longer and be a believer."

Thomas then said, "You are my *Lord* and my God." Jesus replied, "You believe because you see me, don't you? Happy are those who have not seen and believe."

There were many other signs that Jesus gave in the presence of his disciples, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; believe and you will have life through his Name.

Commentary

We must be grateful to Thomas the Twin for his obstinacy in not believing immediately that Jesus had been raised up from the dead. It made him a more credible witness. To be among the Twelve, one of the requirements was to have witnessed Jesus from his baptism at the Jordan till his last appearance, which we call Ascension. Thomas believed because he saw and was invited even to touch Jesus' wounds. Thus, what he saw and experienced, that he must also share with others. He did this, as attested to by the church tradition of India. We, on the other hand, believe on the basis of the apostolic witness. That is why, we profess our faith in an apostolic church. Having received that faith tradition, are we equally eager to share it with others? Faith is not to be kept; it is to be shared.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (PERSONS CRIMINALLY LIABLE)—Liability in complex crime of robbery with homicide—The rule is well-established that whenever homicide has been committed as a consequence or on the occasion of the robbery, all those who took part as principals in the robbery will also be held guilty as principals of the special complex crime of robbery with homicide although they did not actually take part in the homicide unless it clearly appears that they endeavored to prevent the homicide. While accused was bashing the head of the victim, and placing personal items in his bag, nary a peep could be heard from his co-accused. Their act of simply watching shows their moral assent and complete acquiescence to the commission of the crime. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Quisumbing, People v. Cando, G.R. No. 128114, October 25, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Beheading ...

(From page A25)

Insp. Rudy Jaraza, Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit chief.

"He had been there for three years and so he was replaced," Jaraza said.

Chief Insp. Bart Bustamante was appointed officer in charge of CPD Station 6 while Dizon was put in floating status, Jaraza added.

The Inquirer tried but failed to reach Dizon for comment.

The Inquirer already has the names of the three suspects—with the ranks of SPO3, SPO1, and PO2—and the source confirmed that these men were the ones arrested on Thursday.

"The one with the rank of SPO3 is the alleged mastermind but he is still inside the camp," the source said. "He is notorious in his area and is even reportedly involved in robberies.

"The suspects were not put behind bars because we still don't have enough evidence to pin them down," the source said.

As of yesterday, Jaraza was still denying that police had the three suspects in their custody.

"We don't have them," Jaraza said. "I don't know where you media people get these things but we have not arrested anyone."

On Friday, the second headless victim was identified by his parents as Rolando Pupanes Jr., 18, of Tabon Malaria, Caloocan City. He was identified through a tattoo on his right chest, Jaraza said.

"The victim frequently hung out in Tandang Sora," he said. "He must have really angered somebody there."

The bodies of Pupanes, Kenny W. Azana, and a third victim, aged 12-15, were found headless Monday night on Mindanao Avenue in Novaliches, Quezon City.

Dream comes true . . .

(From page A25)

inventory clerk in the department store and an attendant at the skating rink where he met and became friends with Gerard Alferez, a skating enthusiast who lived nearby.

"I was saying goodbye to Gerard," Pagaduan recalls, speaking in Filipino. "I told him I wouldn't be seeing him anymore because I had to look for another job."

Casually, Gerard asked him if he'd care to work for MSA, a tutorial and review center owned and run by Gerard's parents and himself.

On May 27, 1997, Pagaduan signed a six-month contract with MSA. For the first time he felt a sense of sensibility.

"It was the longest contract I'd ever had," he says. "I knew it was up to me to sustain it."

Finally, he had a permanent job, which had eluded him for some time. As a working student and even after graduating from the Marikina Institute of Science and Technology in 1989, he had always been employed as a contractual worker. Still, he was grateful for whatever job he could find. Along the way, he had short stints with Jollibee, Coca-Cola, Purefoods and Swift, among others.

Honest living

"I've always wanted to earn an honest living," says Pagaduan who realizes he can't rely on anyone-not that he would want to. " I couldn't face myself if I were lazy."

He believes in the dignity of hard work and would not have it any other way. "Kung may hirap, may sarap (When there's hardship, there's comfort)," he says.

Pagaduan should know. For four years, as a regular employee of MSA, he has realized that every sacrifice pays off and no effort ever goes to waste.

From the start, the Alferezes have expressed their trust in him by giving him a highly responsible job. He is in charge of the delivery, inventory and pullout of MSA books from bookstores in Metro Manila and neighboring areas like Sucat, Alabang, Biñan, and Bacoor.

"I try to be worthy of their trust," he says. "I am dedicated and diligent. I work hard."

As much as possible, he tries to live up to the expectations of his employers. "I don't want to disappoint them or to make them regret having hired me," he says.

In the same token, he values and safeguards their confidence and high regard for him. "It's a way of repaying them," he allows. Yet, he feels any form of repayment may not be enough.

All-purpose room

Pagaduan recognizes the fact that his employers were instrumental in making one of his most cherished dreams come true.

Until December 1999, the young man, his wife Myrna and their daughter and two sons were staying in one all-purpose room in a house owned by his aunt and occupied by about 20 other relatives and other people.

"It was cramped and crowded," says Pagaduan. "The environment was not healthy, especially for the children."

He knew illegal drugs were being used and pushed. "I was afraid one day I'd discover my kids were being used as couriers." Or, worse, enticed into the world of drugs.

Often Pagaduan would talk about his fears and worries to his employers, particularly to Merle Alferez, who listened and empathized.

In the meantime, Pagaduan had heard about a low-cost housing project in Gitnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal. "But I was realistic," he says. "I knew it was an impossible dream."

Indeed it was and it might have remained that way had Pagaduan not shared it with Merle Alferez. "She offered to help me and my family buy a place of our own," says Pagaduan, who was at first incredulous.

Happy moment

The Alferezes guaranteed Pagaduan's loan with Pag-ibig, put up P15,000 as reservation fee for the house and paid Pagaduan's equity of P63,000.

"It was one of the happiest moments of my life," he says.

Though he has to pay a monthly amortization of P2,800, Pagaduan says there is no pressure from his benefactors. There are no terms and conditions and he can remit whatever amount he can afford. Surely, few are as blessed.

Things have certainly changed for Pagaduan. He remembers when he did not have a permanent job and he often had to borrow money so that they could pay pressing obligations. He remembers running out of money on payday because creditors would knock on their doors and windows.

Caught in this vicious cycle, Pagaduan sometimes felt he could never escape. Yet, there was an optimistic side of him that refused to lose hope and continued to believe that things would get better.

"I would advice people like me, those who are struggling, to never give up."

Not that he no longer has to struggle and fight. Life is still difficult and problems will never end. But for Pagaduan, the big difference is that he now has a feeling of security and permanence in his job and, more importantly, in his own home.

Pagaduan has an older brother whom he describes as a "rebel." The brother, married and living in Bulacan, is apparently content and has no further aspirations aside from working for a jueteng operator.

Peaceful man

"My mother is a contract worker in Lebanon," says Pagaduan. The family, however, hasn't heard from her for six years. "We would like to find her and to see her again," he adds.

Pagaduan becomes emotional and teary-eyed at the mention of his mother.

In August 2000, Pagaduan's father, who had previously been staying in Nueva Ecija, finally came to join him and his wife and children in their new home.

Father and son were separated for 18 years. "I could only visit him from time to time," the son says. "My father is a quiet and peaceful man and I would like to be the same."

Pagaduan feels he owes his good fortune and blessings to a combination of factors. First, he says, are faith in God and the moral support of his family. "And of course, love of work, dedication, perseverance, confidence in myself, persistence."

He does not count out luck, opportunity and timing, and meeting good people like the Alferezes who have turned out to be ideal employers, surrogate parents and true friends.

Snatchers kill . . .

(From page A25)

Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Aumentado and his companions were on board a passenger jeepney driven by Modesto Bautista when the shooting and snatching happened around 9:35 p.m. Friday on Timog Avenue, De Leon said.

"Aumentado was with his girlfriend, sister and brother and the jeepney was going toward Project 2 and 3," De Leon said.

He said the two unidentified men boarded the jeep at the corner of Timog and Quezon avenues. Moments later, one of them grabbed Aumentado's cell phone which he had put on his lap.

Aumentado tried to retrieve his phone from the snatchers but one of the latter brought out a homemade shotgun and shot him, De Leon said.

He said Aumentado was hit in the upper part of the left arm. The bullet went through his arm and exited near his left armpit. ***With a report from Sharon C. Jaylo***

Hallmark drama recounts start of desegregation

BASED on the best-selling novel by award-winning novelist Terry Kay, Hallmark Channel's "The Runaway" recreates life in the rural American South following World War II when men and women returned home deeply affected by their experiences.

Starring Dean Cain, Debbie Morgan, Pat Hingle and poetess Maya Angelou, it's about the beginning of desegregation told against the backdrop of an enduring friendship.

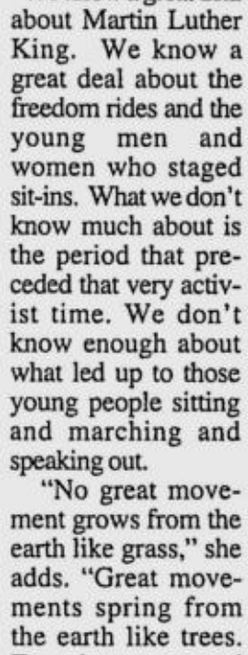
"The Runaway" premieres at 9 tonight on the Hallmark Channel, aired on SkyCable Channel 38, Home Cable Channel 53, Destiny Cable Channel 25, and through local Cable Boss affiliates throughout the Philippines.

Cain plays the role of Sheriff Frank Richards, who doggedly pursues the truth behind the murders.

Angelou, who plays the Conjure Woman, was lured to the project by its fascinating story. "We know a great deal about Martin Luther King. We know a great deal about the freedom rides and the young men and women who staged sit-ins. What we don't know much about is the period that preceded that very activist time. We don't know enough about what led up to those young people sitting and marching and speaking out.

"No great movement grows from the earth like grass," she adds. "Great movements spring from the earth like trees. Trees have roots and this story tells us something about the roots."

The Hallmark Channel is a 24-hour global cable and satellite channel that delivers original, award-winning movies and mini-series throughout Europe, Latin America, Asia Pacific, Africa and the Middle East.



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4 3000 MILES
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Mandaluyong
MARIKINA PLAZA
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1 MADERAZO
2 ABAKADA INA
3 SWEET NOVEMBER
4 ATTACK FORCE

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 MADFRAZO

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(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
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2 MADERAZO
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5 3000 MILES

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2 ABAKADA ... INA
3 EVANGELINE 14
4 PRODIGAL FIGHTER
5 ATTACK FORCE
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2 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3 MADFRAZO

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2 THE GIFT
3 (DTS) ABAKADA INA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2 (DTS) RUGRATS
3 (DOLBY) THEY NEST
4 ABAKADA INA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) SWEET NOVEMBER
2 MADERAZO
3 3000 MILES
4 (DTS) ABAKADA INA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
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2 ABAKADA ... INA
3 (DTS) RUGRATS
4 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
5 ROARING LION REGENT DRAGON

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
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2 RUGRATS
3 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Olivarez Los Baños
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1 ABAKADA INA
2 RUGRATS
3 DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1 GLADIATOR
2 BABAENG PUTIK
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2 ABAKADA INA
3 RUGRATS

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3 DRACULA
4 EVANGELINE 14

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2 (DTS)

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 ($DDS)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	THE CROW
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RUGRATS IN PARIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	DOUBLE TAKE
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FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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EASTERN	
MAXIM	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
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ODEON	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
ODEON-2	ATTACK FORCE
ROBEN	ABAKADA... INA
TANDEM-1	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
TANDEM-2	EVANGELINE 14
TIMES	PROOF OF LIFE/DEMON GATE
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ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	BAYAD NA PATI KALULUWA MO
QUEZON-1	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
REMAR	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
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CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
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OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	RUGRATS
CINEMA-2	SWEET NOVEMBER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ABAKADA... INA
CINEMA-2	MADERASO
CINEMA-3	SEDUCER
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE CROW
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
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CINEMA-11(SDDS)	DOUBLE TAKE
CINEMA-12	AIR BUD 3
CINEMA-14	ANTI-TRUST
CINEMA-15	ABAKADA INA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	DI MATIGIL ANG INIT / HIYAS
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CINEMA-2	ANTI-TRUST
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COMFORT counts most for Rafael Rosell.

Budding star gets a kick out of being in show biz

TALENT, determination and a little luck have brought Rafael Rosell to his newfound status as a hot model.

This early, Rafael is being groomed by the ABS-CBN Talent Center to join the next batch of shining stars, Star Circle 9.

"My mom's friend mailed her the news that ABS-CBN was looking for a new set of people to join the group," Rafael says. "So we sent pictures to my mom's friend and eventually, ABS-CBN asked me to be ready for the casting season."

By now, it is well known that Rafael was born and raised in Stavanger, Norway, although he is 100 percent Filipino. His dad is from Cebu while his mom is from Bicol.

Rafael says watching Rambo movies as a kid got him interested in show business. Now that he is in show biz himself, he is neck-deep in mall shows, TV appearances and acting and singing workshops at the Talent Center. He also recently finished doing the Koine Theater Foundation play "Reviving What Was Fame."

"I really enjoyed doing that play," he says. "The time I spent with the other actors and the staff, my role, everything was an experience I won't ever forget."

Like any budding star, Rafael looks up to several big ones for inspiration. "Among the local talents, I like Aga Muhlach because he's really achieved so much as an actor. I also admire Brad Pitt for his versatility, Bruce Lee for his action movies and Eddie Murphy because he's outrageously funny."

Of his own future as an actor, he says: "I want to have a successful career because people remember great actors. When I pass away, my name will live forever and I think that's

one of the greatest things that can ever happen to any person."

A truly successful actor for Rafael is one who has the ability to touch the audience with his performances. "That's the best way to gauge an actor's success," he says.

As an actor, Rafael has to be always dressed well. "I always go for comfort. You can never go wrong with comfort."

Rafael's concept of comfortable fashion extends even to his choice of shoes. He prefers Kickers, the European brand.

"I've always preferred Kickers because the styles and the variety of the shoes were so impressive," he says.

He gets to wear the very styles he likes since Rafael is the new Kickers image model.

Say YES! to love songs

YES! FM 101.1, the official number one radio station in Metro Manila, has come up with the album "YESterday YEStoday," a 15-track compilation of the best foreign and Original Filipino Music (OPM) love songs from the '70s to the '90s.

"YESterday YEStoday" *is* available in CDs and cassettes at all record bars nationwide.

Yes! FM 101.1 is a member of the Manila Broadcasting Co. (MBC) which owns and operates the largest radio network in the country and in Asia.

Add sparkle to your summer with the new Rio Grande Rapids ride, a high-energy Gary V. concert*, and a dazzling fireworks competition... all at Enchanted Kingdom's 6th Anniversary Celebration.

Toss, turn, and tumble at the grand launch of the **Rio Grande Rapids**, the newest, wettest river raft ride on April 28. Feast your eyes and ears on the colorful Mardi Gras Parade, Steel Drum Ensemble, and Cumbancheros that same day. On April 29 at 7PM, dance the night away with latin pop songs when **Gary V. goes Latin!**

As if that isn't enough, there will be a Mayday Mayhem Party on May 1, Get Set Get Wet Summer Promo**, plus get a chance to win a family trip to Hongkong in the Happy Families Go to EK & HK Raffle Promo**.

To cap the celebration, watch our much-awaited **6th Annual Fireworks Competition** on May 6 at 7PM.

All these fun-filled activities to thank you for six wonderful years.

*Get tickets to the concert when you buy 2 Wrigley's polybags worth P100 at EK/ or by presenting a single purchase receipt worth P200/ or accumulated receipts worth P300 from any food, merchandise, or photo outlets. Purchases must be made on the day that you claim your concert tickets.

**See posters and leaflets for details.

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Sun Apr. 22 Michelle Aldana, Albert Martinez
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SEGURISTA

Mon Apr. 23 Bong Revilla, Dawn Zulueta
Umaatikabong Aksyon sa Lunes:
ISANG BALA, ISANG BUHAY

Tue Apr. 24 Donna Cruz, Donita Rose
Tuesday's Tambay Time:
CAMPUS GIRLS

Wed Apr. 25 Christopher de Leon, Sharon Cuneta
Madamdaming Miyerkules:
KAILAN SASABIHING MAHAL KITA?

Thu Apr. 26 Gloria Diaz, Vic Vargas
Director's Masterpiece:
PINAKAMAGANDANG HAYOP SA BALAT NG LUPA

Fri Apr. 27
Pops Fernandez, Carlos Agassi
Premiere Express sa Biyernes:
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Sat Apr. 28
Edu Manzano, Luisito Espinosa
Saturday Screen Specials:
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Lorna Tolentino gets under her character's skin in'Abakada...Ina'

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Magsasama ang dalawang pinakikinggan at kinagigiliwang personalidad na paborito ng masa.

Ang mga hinahangaang political analysts ng bansa sa talakayang uungkat sa mga isyu at kontrobersiyang nasa likod ng mga ulo ng balita!

Ang bagong programang inyong aabangan tuwing Linggo ng gabi!

Tutukan ang mga matatalim na opinyong minsan lamang bibitawan nina Prof. Randy David at Atty. Katrina Legarda.

RANDY DAVID | KATRINA LEGARDA
OFF THE RECORD
ABS-CBN

A MOVIE about illiteracy? Sounds like something local producers would avoid like the plague, but to its credit, Viva Films has decided to film "Abakada . . . Ina," **Shaira Salvador** and **Ramon Bayron**'s script about an illiterate wife and mother, and how her inability to read and write has compromised her and her family's options and prospects.

Even better, **Eddie Garcia** found the script substantial and exceptional enough for it to become his comeback vehicle as film director, after a number of years. Garcia's handling of the

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

already significant material adds immeasurably to its quality and impact.

At the outset, the glamorous **Lorna Tolentino** appears to be miscast as the "lowly" vendor who's the story's protagonist. She's "made-down" to look rough and scruffy for the role, but even this obviously "created" look is distracting.

However, it's a testament to Garcia's handling and Tolentino's thespic talent that she's eventually able to get under her character's skin, and to make viewers believe that she's indeed an illiterate who has a hard time finding hope and respect in her woebegone life.

In the film's story, Lorna and her three daughters are forced to live with her mother-in-law (**Nida Blanca**) because Lorna's husband (**Albert Martinez**) is on an interisland ship, working as a seaman.

He really doesn't want to become a nautical officer, but it's his smothering mother's wish, so he must obey her. Still, the time comes when he has to accept the sad fact that he doesn't have what it takes to become a success in the line of work his mother has chosen for him, so he opts out.

During this tempestuous period, he takes his frustration out on his wife, who tries to help him earn money for their family's needs, but can't rise above selling *kakanin* because she's illiterate.

The breaking point comes when their youngest daughter falls gravely ill when Lorna gives her the wrong medicine, since she can't read the label on the bottle.

This is what finally makes Lorna decide to learn how to read and write, even if it means going to school with her youngest child.

But "Abakada . . . Ina" is more than just a movie about the tragedy of illiteracy. It's also about love and respect in male-female relations, in the ways that the different social classes help or hinder each other, and the wrong values that children imbibe, which make them look down even on their own mother.

These other concerns expand the movie's scope and pertinence, but they are occasionally distracting, as in the case of the "prostitute with a heart of gold" played by **Joanne Quintas**, who is depicted as an improbable "guardian angel" who comes to Lorna's help when she gets into trouble.

Still, the effort to effect a wide-angle perception of its central conflict makes the movie an unusually involved and involving viewing experience.

Lorna and Nida pace the other members of the cast with their focused, committed and insightful performances. Too bad that Albert and **Matet de Leon** (as the eldest daughter) aren't able to rise up to the high level of work the two lead actresses have set.

But "Abakada . . . Ina" is still a good film to see, ultimately rising above its distractions and low points, and rewarding viewers with its on-target reading of the human heart.

We hope that people who have been complaining about the local movie industry's generally mediocre output will go out of their way to support this production's generally laudable effort to do better work.

Only if we do this can producers be encouraged to go the extra mile in terms of filmic significance and quality. If above-average movies lose money, you can bet that producers won't touch them with a 10-foot-pole, and will instead go back to making the usual cheapies and quickies that we all love to complain about.

Want to help break this silly cycle? Go out of your way to see above-average movies like "Abakada . . . Ina."

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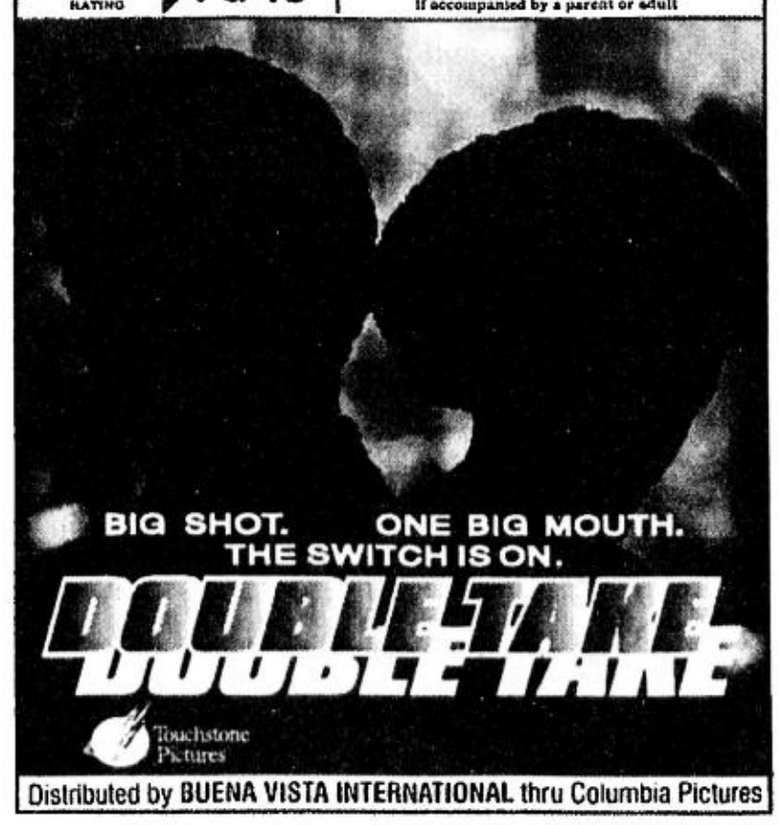

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'FINDING FORRESTER'

The writer as friend and teacher

BY EMMIE G. VELARDE

REVIEW

THE PARALLELS between this movie and "The Wonder Boys,"—belatedly hailed as one of the year 2000's best films--are too numerous to ignore.

Each tells of a phenomenal best-selling author who never produced a second work, and a brilliant young talent seeking direction. In both instances, the mentor gets to learn more from the student.

Although I find "Wonder Boys" faster in pace and more engaging, it is the eccentric recluse (is this redundant? . . . must be careful when writing about writers) of "Finding Forrester" that I would personally run to, for after-six training. In fact, thrashing through this piece, I am tempted to do as William Forrester (Sean Connery) counsels the 16-year-old black boy Jamal Wallace (Robert Brown): "Write the first draft with your heart . . . just write . . . just pound on the (typewriter) keys until the words come . . ." had I one full semester to squander.

Grady Tripp (Michael Douglas), the flaky prof in "Wonder Boys," is jealous of and at times threatened by his ward's genius. William, by flinging open his bolted door to an unlikely apprentice, is coaxed out of his comfort zone, reintroduced to the world, and ultimately granted "the wish of friendship" in old age.

Both tales end happily. Tripp resolves a multitude of personal issues, and the agoraphobic Forrester spends more time outdoors for the rest of his life.

The liberated William would certainly be my choice for a future—the vision of absolute freedom, regardless of fame and fortune, on his squeaky bike, fulfilled after a single relationship that ensures immortality for himself and his "partner." They don't even have sex and beget children; they write a book!

I am told "Forrester" is loosely based on the life of J. D. Salinger, peculiar but deified author of the decades-old "Catcher in the Rye." The operative word is "loosely," Salinger apparently being more ferociously private than the movie character. An intrepid upstart who once tried to write J.D.'s biography was rewarded with a lawsuit.

I don't imagine that William is any easier to get. It just so happens, as it does happen, that it is the persistent Jamal's destiny to break through the fortress of William's silence, in more ways than one.

As for the cranky old man that Connery so endearingly portrays, I can only say that fortune is something that falls into one's lap without reason or condition. In Jamal, William is shown a way out of seclusion. Sure, he doesn't want it; he is content living alone. Alas, he is not aware that his own story is in the hands of an Author bigger than he'll ever be.

The fictional Forrester is said to have written the greatest novel of the 21st century. He thinks he is running away from literary critics who carry on posing personal theories on what his revered novel was really trying to say.

In truth he is running away from his reward, the chance to share his art and maybe mold someone into his likeness—the noble way of all gifts.

Among the non-quantifiable pleasures offered by the writing profession, at least for me, is finding new images, new rhythms, new directions, in the work of talented new writers. Getting to interact with them in the workplace could be sheer joy.

I understand the movie is about the boy as much as it is about the man, but the character Jamal is presented, perhaps unwittingly, as a crafty cager who is also good at writing, rather than the other way around. I feel a bit shortchanged by the fact that I am not given an experience of this "extraordinary" wordsmith's heart and skill, only sequence after sequence of proof that he is going to be the next Michael Jordan.

Even in Connery's requisite bring-down-the house oration where he reads from Jamal's work, Director Gus Van Savant resorts to visual ellipses depicting the awe with which the audience is receiving the words, after only two sentences.

Notice that the word "savant" is contained in director Gus Van Sant's name. I firmly believe that there are really no accidents. Van Sant also directed the acclaimed "Good Will Hunting." He was hand-picked (as was the 16-year-old Brown) by Connery, who is also producer of "Finding Forrester."

The project has been put down as a retread of the earlier movie or, more tauntingly, "Hunting" in the hood. As a prank, perhaps "Good Will Hunting" star and writer Matt Damon makes a cameo appearance in the final quarter hour.

All told, except for the shortage of literary lifts, Van Sant has done well enough, infusing traditional sentimentality with the in-your- face rawness of beat poetry and the appropriate sounds, and not to forget, deftly juxtaposing bookish-ness and basketball.

The not-so-good news is, "Forrester is being shown, last I looked, in only two theaters, Greenbelt 3 and Glorietta. The queues are encouraging, though.

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SPINELLI - a "tough little punk" - the smallest kid on the playground yet tough enough to take on all comers, no matter what their size, boy or girl

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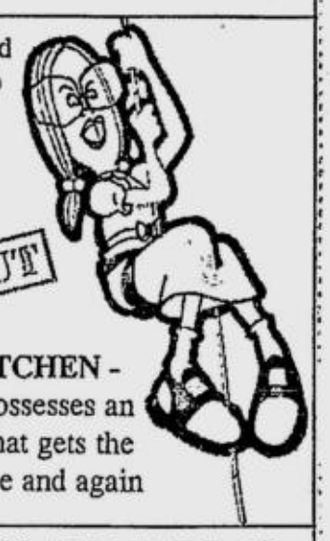

GRETCHEN - the "outfit's brainiac" - possesses an encyclopedic knowledge that gets the gang out of trouble time and again

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AIR BUD 3 - G 10:40, 12:30, 2:20, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50, 9:40	ANTI - TRUST - P 13 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40	RUGRATS IN PARIS - G 11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
DOUBLE TAKE - P 13 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	3000 MILES - R 18 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	SWEET NOVEMBER - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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A rookie cop gets assigned to a tough, sexy female partner who is legendary for her violent, but effective, ways. While on an extremely tough serial killer case, the pair begin a passionate affair. Before long, the rookie gets evidence that his partner, and lover, may actually be behind the string of grisly murders.

STARRING GINA GERSHON & RON SILVER

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The film contains language and violence which young audiences may find disturbing. Parents and guardians are strongly cautioned against bringing children 13 years and below.

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Top woman exec drops career, chooses family and partnership with husband

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

SHE was one of the country's top albeit low profile lady executives and her career growth was showing no signs of slowing down when she gave it all up to focus on family and team up with her husband to go on their own.

TOGETHER at last: Paolo and Grace Castaño with sons Rafaelle and Marco.

For 15 years Grace del Rosario-Castaño had been building brands for multinational firms—five years with Unilever then with Johnson & Johnson Phils.

She is the author of Rexona's famous marketing line—"Won't let you down!" For J&J she started the Pure Essentials line with the face powder as the first brand.

When she quit at 36, she was general manager of J&J Indonesia and vice president for marketing for the Asean region. She was expected to climb higher in the multinational firm's corporate ladder when she shifted gears.

That her career rise was not without its victims was almost a given.

Her last position called for her to live in Indonesia but Grace did not want to uproot her family so she shuttled between Indonesia and Manila weekly—flying to Indonesia on Mondays and back to Manila on weekends.

She was practically an absentee mother to her two sons, aged nine and six. Husband Paolo tried his best to be both mom and dad but the task was not an easy one.

Her two sons were hungering for her presence. They were underperforming in school.

When she told her eldest about her disappointment over his grades, his answer was "It's not fair because you are never here."

Making choices

Grace knew it was time to make a choice.

"With the multitude of responsibilities, I realized that you could quickly lose sight of your priorities. At the end of the day, I realize I have a choice of what is important in my life—and that is, being there for my family," she says.

But she was not the first one who made a choice for family. Five years ago, when she was assigned to J&J in the United States, Paolo was faced with staying in the Philippines to continue his work here as director for sales for the then Sterling Corp. (now Reckitt and Coleman), a pharmaceutical firm, or start his own business to be with his family in the United States.

"I had to make a choice whether to stick to corporate life or start my own business. I decided to take the risk and when in the US, I started networking. I approached a lot of companies to allow me to import and market their products," he says.

And so he created Brands Worldwide Inc., a firm which imports and markets several imported products like Woolite, Playtex, French's Mustard, Wet Ones, Lysol, Binaca, Banana Boat.

When she chose family over career, Grace says she was only being true to herself. Two years ago, she told INQUIRER's Business Friday that her dream was simply to be a mother and spend time enjoying her children.

Building brands

Paolo adds that her position then was already taking its toll on her.

"It reached a point when I was seeing she was being affected by all these travels. Sunday nights, I would see her being depressed because it is a Monday the following day, which meant she would be leaving (and flying off to Indonesia). So I said you've been building brands for other companies why not build brands for our company?"

He cites that although they market many brands, these are not theirs, and there is fear at the back of their minds that they might lose these anytime.

In deciding to make her career move, Grace says what convinced her also was a question she could only answer if she made the shift—"Would I be successful as an entrepreneur? Bragging aside, I am already successful as a corporate person, but the other question is something that's totally unanswered. I felt that it's something that I should be able to answer whether it is positive or negative. I think that's what made me decide to go full blast."

Besides, her husband told her she can always go back to corporate life if their venture fails.

That many would still take her in is a certainty. Grace was a major factor in coming up with the J&J face powder which now holds over 50 percent of the market.

"Grace's strength is a combination of expertise in marketing and emotional intelligence. If you were under pressure your tendency as a boss is to pressure your people. She makes you have fun. She says this is the scenario, this is my dilemma, how can we work together," says Cathy Andres, former head of J&J's professional marketing services company.

She adds that Grace is "for the people, pushing for benefits."

"Wherever she goes, she leaves a mark. When she was in the US, top management wanted to retain her," Andres adds.

"I admire the way she handled me. She just gave me an overview and laid down her expectations. Every quarter, we would just update each other. The way she managed it, I find myself guilty if I'm not able to do the expectation we agreed on. That kind of managing people, that style encourages you to work harder than just sit down and relax," Andres adds.

Tough decision

It was a tough decision for Grace to leave J&J, her home for 10 years. She was given by the firm six months to think things over but last January Grace took the plunge with Paolo to set up Consumer Insights Inc., a firm which markets products that are "based on an in-depth understanding of consumers' insights."

Its vision is "to be a modest sized player in the global market that is recognized for its products that deliver su-

TOP/ B2

Top woman exec drops career, chooses family and partnership with husband

(From page B1)

perior consumer brand value."

Grace explains "to do this will mean redefining the market, being innovative and treading on untested waters."

"Our ultimate goal is to be an inspiration to Filipino entrepreneurs," she states.

Paolo is the president of Consumer Insights while Grace is its managing director.

"Paolo, with his background and experience, handles sales while I take charge of marketing," is how Grace describes their teamwork.

"I try to generate sales and income while Grace loves to spend everything," Paolo jokes.

"In cases of sales and marketing we try to get each other's opinions but the last person who has the last say will be the one in charge of that area," she adds.

Most of the other requirements are subcontracted. Freelancers are tapped as consultants. They use toll manufacturers to make the products, much like how many drug companies and even J&J do it these days.

THE PRODUCTS are geared for teens under stress.

So far conflicts are rare between the husband and wife who are also business partners.

Grace explains the conflicts are usually on a personal basis, like those of a typical husband and wife. "We try not to bring it to work. I just have to think that had this been another person who is my partner, I will not act that way."

Consumer Insights' first venture is Mesaki, a line of skin products for teens. Starting off the line is a face powder, a lip gloss and spray cologne.

For Grace though the most important thing is that she is able to be with her family almost the whole time since she holds office at home.

"Now I get to attend my son's violin recitals and attend school meetings," she smiles.

Forget trying to sell a toothpaste for the whole family, niche is it

"GONE are the days when you can sell a toothpaste for the entire family or a shampoo that can give you a strong, healthy, shiny black hair while keeping dandruff away. We can now reap the rewards of niche marketing."

That in gist is how former top marketing executive Grace Castaño describes the current market.

"We are in the age of specialization. Look at Baby Magazine, it's something that's very specialized," she says, referring to the country's first and only magazine focused on childbearing, childbirth and childrearing.

This guiding principle is what led Grace and husband Paolo to venture into the teen market with its Mesaki line.

"What we did here was target teens who are under stress," she explains.

"All you have to do is find that niche in terms of products or in terms of the target market. My belief is there is enough room for anyone to segment the market correctly. It's a pie that gets smaller and it's just a question of how you segment the pie."

She says using the philosophy behind Consumer Insights Inc., the marketing firm she and her husband put up, of marketing products based on an in-depth understanding of consumers' insights, they put up Mesaki because they realize there are several sources of stress among teens.

And these can be categorized into three—school, relationships, extra-curricular activities.

And Grace says "there is direct correlation between stress and skin problem. Teens attribute their unpleasant skin condition to stress."

Husband Paolo says all the anti-stress skin products are geared for adults, none are for teens.

The name Mesaki was chosen by the husband and wife. Mesaki is a combination of English and Japanese words.

Paolo explains that "saki" in Japanese means future so Mesaki means "my future."

The allusion to a Japanese product was decided because Japan is now a leader in skin products and the Castaños intend to open a research firm in Tokyo to be abreast of the latest trends in skin care.

In drawing up their marketing strategy the two decided that big is not necessarily good so their face powder, lip gloss and cologne are packaged in smaller containers than those available in the market.

They played on colors, used menthol, flavor and glitters in their products. They picked a distinctive name.

"We also designed a packaging that stands out," Grace says pointing out that a big consideration is shelf impact and uniqueness so they chose a frosted gray container, and opted for blister packs to prevent pilferage.

Consumer Insights is earmarking over P1 million for an advertising campaign. Paolo says as soon as they recover their investments, they will plough back more into marketing.

He says his experience with Sterling Corp. and Brands Worldwide helped a lot in distributing Mesaki. He was able to tap his network and convince people to trust that they have a good product.

Mesaki was launched over a month ago and is available in select outlets only. It is in Rustan's department stores and groceries (Rockwell, Forbes and Alabang), Robinson's, Galleria and Ermita, Cinderella and SM department stores.

The products have been moving off the shelves for the past weeks and the Castaños hope these will continue to do so.

Margie Q. Espino

IN YOUR FACE — BY L. P. LEVISTE

ENERGY Secretary Jose Isidro "Lito" N. Camacho, an investment banker all his life, is now plunged into government service with a salary that is probably just enough to cover his monthly electricity and water bills. Camacho lives in one of the plushest villages in Makati, and has six children, the eldest of whom is in a boarding school in London, while the rest are studying at the International School. All he could say when he accepted the job was "Duty calls!"

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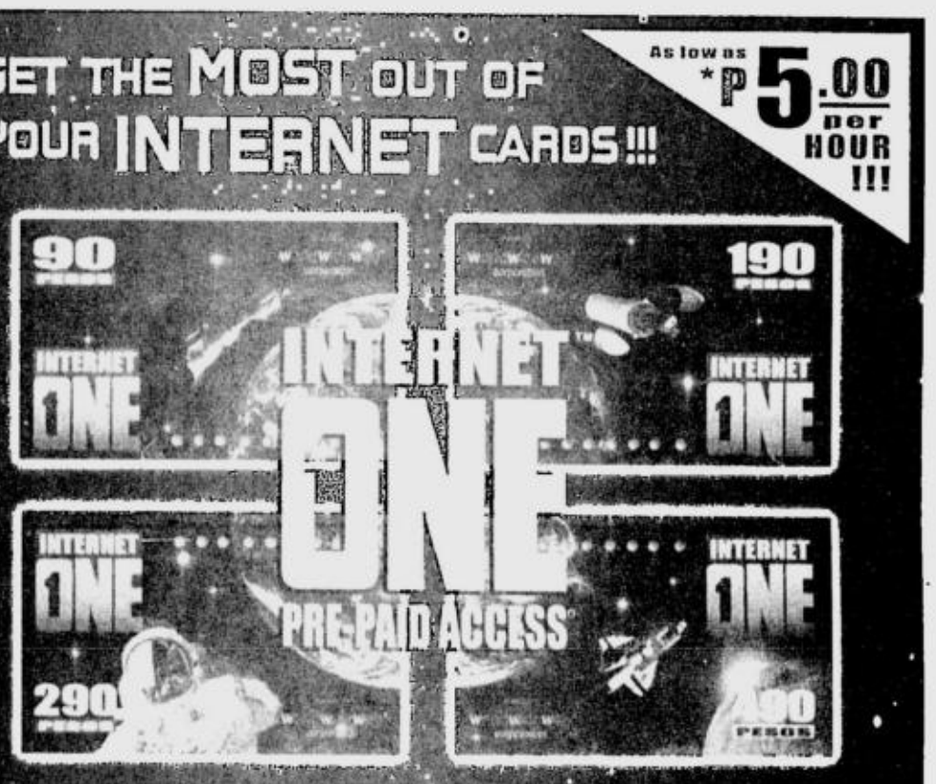

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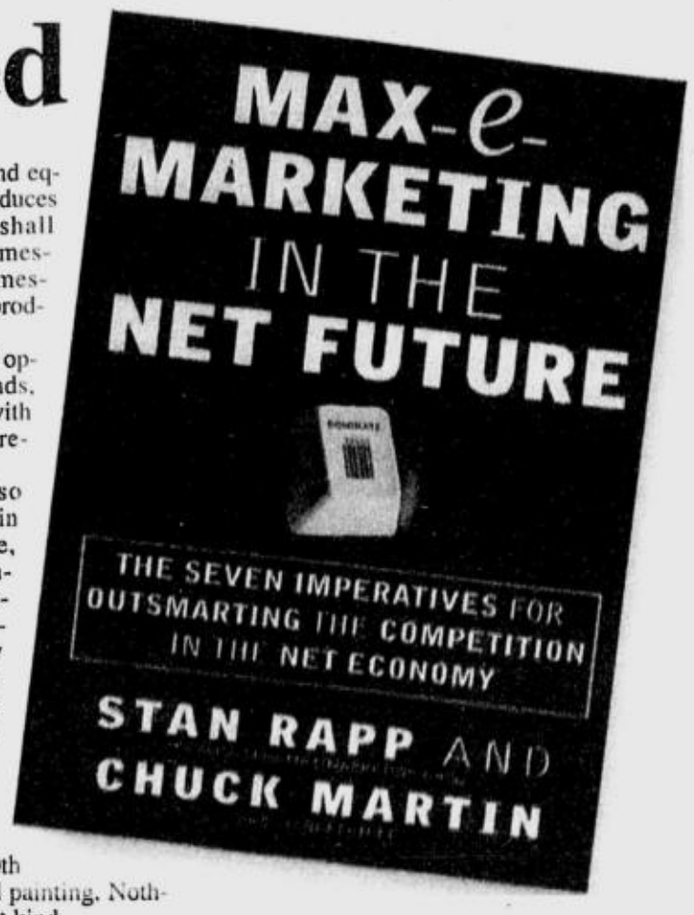

"Max-e-Marketing in the Net Future"
Stan Rapp & Chuck Martin
McGraw-Hill, 2001

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

THE POWER to navigate the world at the click of a mouse is a force that is transforming our lives. And little will be the same," Businessweek Online declared in its March 22, 1999 issue.

More than a year after that statement, the transformation in the way we work, play and do business continues at the speed of light.

EXECUTIVE READ

Much has been written about e-commerce, and how it has transformed the way a corporation stores and retrieves information; the way it uses its resources, people and otherwise; and the way it is structured—from the stable hierarchical pyramid to quick response teams that are easily deployed.

Big corporations have published books to document their own responses to the new revolutionary demands of the Net economy—one way to assure their stockholders that they have acquired a new agility and picked up speed in outsmarting competition and in responding to customer needs.

What you would have though is an inside view of a corporation in the process of transformation. Sometimes, you could relate to such changes; other times you couldn't. However, if you are looking for models, these corporate biographies would really be valuable.

But, if you are looking for a wide-ranging view of what's really happening in the marketplace, what the new rules of engagement are, what new trends have materialized at the quickly changing horizon, and which industry players have been successfully cresting the wave of change—there is one book you can begin with: "Max-e-Marketing in the Net Future: The Seven Imperatives for Outsmarting the Competition in the Net Economy."

If old paradigms are not changed, they are enriched. It used to be, for example, that we distinguish between selling a "product" or a "service." The book's one imperative says: "Erase the line between product and service." Brand equity has been the emphasis of many a global consumer firm. The authors recommend that you "add relationship equity to brand equity." And here's one that introduces a new dimension to Marshall McLuhan's "medium is the message": The "process is the message"—or, "the process is the product."

Look the book up for several options on how process surrounds, creates or adds to the product, with several success stories from renowned brands.

The book also dares violate certain rules. For instance, here is one recommendation that violates marketing—and even grammar—rules: Try "verb branding"—like "Amazoning," which sells the process of ordering a book with one click, complete with a package tracking mechanism. This is actually antedated by "Sinclair It!" and "Xerox It"—but they refer to simple old 20th century tasks, like copying and painting. Nothing about surfing of the Internet kind.

The book is organized according to the "seven imperatives"—and thus it is easy on the reader to choose which imperative takes his fancy first. If your present concern is outsourcing, you begin with Imperative 4: "Do as little as possible yourself—let others do the work for you." Sounds like a recommendation to elevate job evasion to the level of art! Not really. Check that imperative.

Or, if you are reviewing your organizational structure to make it more marketing oriented, be surprised by this tip in Imperative 7: "Make business responsible for marketing and marketing responsible for business"—which is actually saying marketing will drive the entire enterprise.

Written by a tandem of a relationship marketing man and an online publisher/lecturer, the book gives two assurances to the reader. First, the analyses and insights in marketing come from an old hand in marketing and advertising, but who has acquired a new eye that makes sense of the information age.

Second, the environmental scan of the Net economy and networked society is made by the unerring eye of one who has been tracking this "transformational force" since it strode into the scene before an unsuspecting and a largely unprepared corporate community.

Aside from overwhelming us with changes that gives you impression that you now live in a radically new world, the book gives valuable information—like a "walk through" of the evolution of the new marketing—from the 1970s to 2000s. (Yes, lifestyle-altering changes have happened in much less than 50 years!) Well, at the latter pages of the book is a URL Listing that will drive readers to lose no time in navigating the world—through the mouse.

Marketing gurus like Philip Kotler and Theodore Levitt might have equipped us with marketing principles, but they have not prepared us for this rapidly changing Net economy where the rules have been turned upside down. The bad news is, if you are in marketing (and that means the entire business), what you don't know can hurt you—real bad. Hang on then to the seven imperatives in this book. Your wish to get hold of this book might as well be a command.

(dantemv@I-next.net.)

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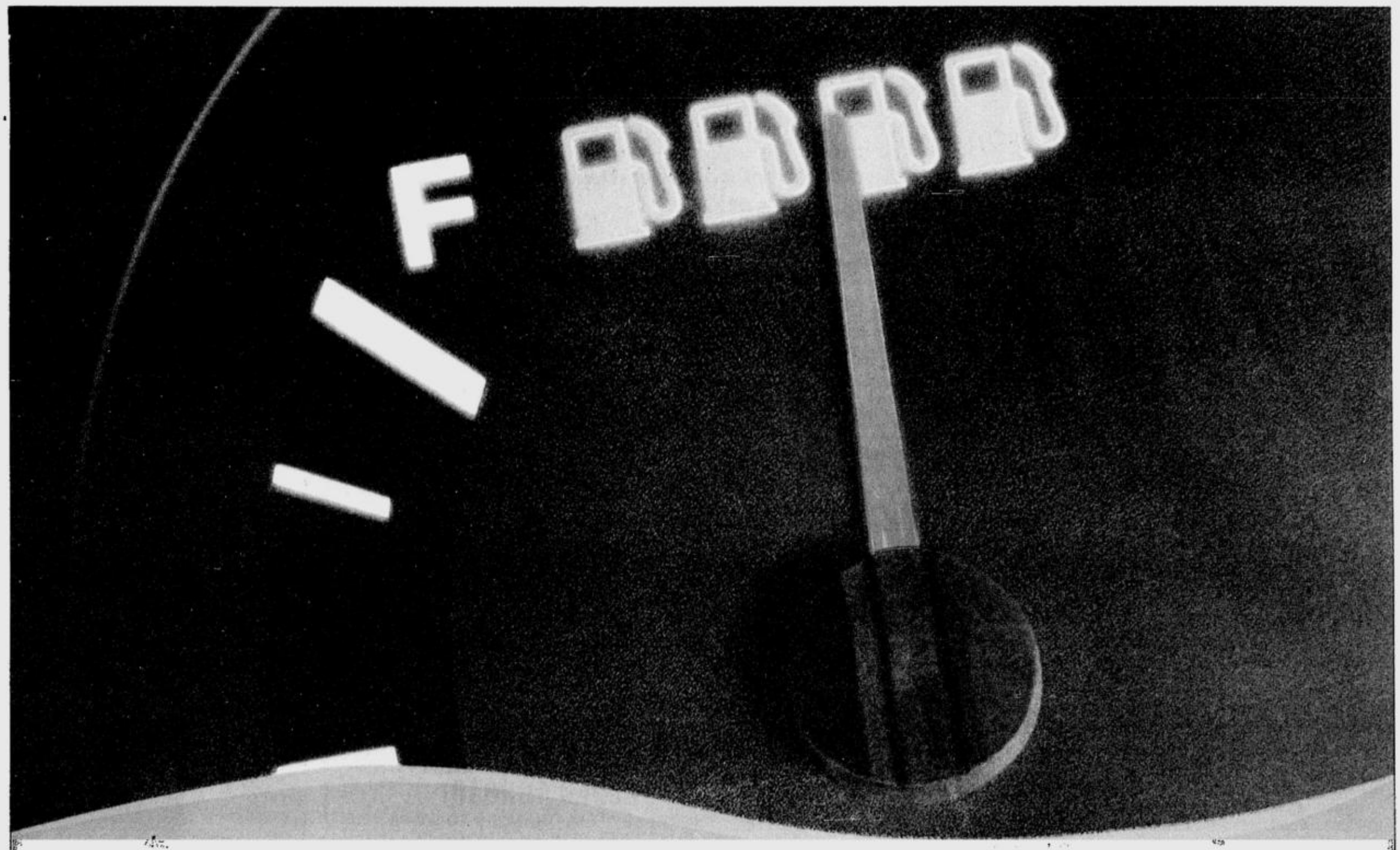

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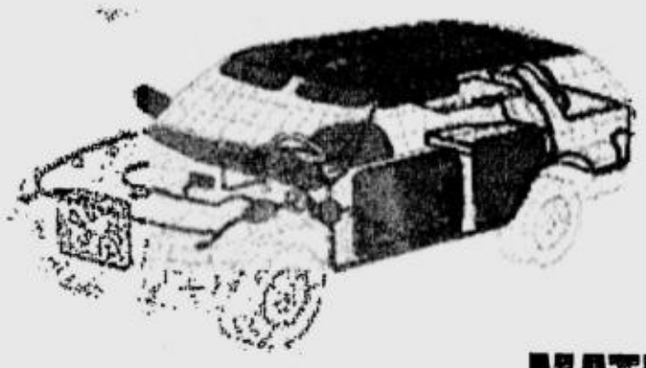

MAINTENANCE MANAGER
Code: MEM

- BSEE, BSME graduate
- At least 5 years experience in Maintenance Management (Line Maintenance and Facilities)
- Well versed in production and facilities equipment and troubleshooting techniques
- Knowledge in computerized maintenance management system
- Knowledge in ISO and QS-9000 standards
- Good leadership skills
- Good in communication skills in English written and oral

MANUFACTURING MANAGER
Code: MM

- Engineering graduate
- At least 3 to 5 years experience in a manufacturing environment as Manufacturing Manager
- Results-oriented individual, able to handle the demands of a customer focused manufacturing environment
- Good leadership skills
- Good in communication skills in English (written and oral); Japanese a plus language

LEAR CORPORATION, a Fortune 200 corporation based in Southfield, Michigan, USA, is the world's largest supplier of automotive interiors. The Company's world-class products are designed, engineered and manufactured by more than 120,000 employees in over 300 facilities in 33 countries.

Lear has four facilities engaged in manufacture of automotive wire hamess and is located in the Mactan Exporting Zone in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, Philippines.

We are in need of the following key personnel:

MATERIALS MANAGER
Code: MAT-M

- College graduate of any 4-year course
- At least 3 years experience in materials management and logistics (Production Planning and Control, Purchasing and Warehousing); customer-oriented
- Good interpersonal relations to effectively interact with internal and external customers and suppliers
- Result oriented, pro-active and concept developer
- Good leadership skills
- Knowledge in basic customs laws is an added advantage
- Creative in logistic planning
- Travel availability to meet the vendors and customers
- Good leadership skills
- Good in communication skills in English written and oral

Interested Applicants may submit their Application Letter, 2x2 picture, Comprehensive Resumé and TOR to:

CODE: _____
The HR Manager
Lear Automotive (EEDS) Philippines, Inc.
MEZ 1, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu
or e-mail at nlabay@lear.com or ggabutan@lear.com
Deadline of Submission: April 27, 2001

All applicants would be handled strictly confidential.
This is an urgent requirement.

Sara Lee Direct Selling
HOUSE OF Sara Lee

HOUSE OF SARA LEE is one of the fastest growing direct selling companies in the Philippines. It is a division of Sara Lee Corporation, a $20 Billion global corporation, manufacturing and marketing high-quality brand name products for consumers worldwide. Sara Lee Corporation markets world-renowned megabrands in more than 140 countries such as Hanes, Playtex, L'eggs, Kiwi and Zwitsal.

SALES TRAINING SUPERVISORS

San Fernando (Pampanga), Angeles City, Bacolod, Balanga (Bataan), Dumaguete, Tagbilaran, Iligan, Tacloban, Bifan, Legazpi, Malabon, Sorsogon, Kalibo, Balayan (Batangas), Lipa, San Jose (Nueva Ecija), Vigan, Metro Manila and other provincial areas

The position is open to females with high leadership potential and background in sales and/or training. Will be tasked to handle training, development and motivation of the sales force. Must be willing to be assigned anywhere, independent and can travel alone. Degree holders preferably in Masscomm, Behavioral Science and other related disciplines. Pleasing personality and clear complexion. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

BRANCH OPERATIONS SUPERVISORS

Balanga (Bataan), Malabon, Tagbilaran, Metro Manila and other provincial areas

Open to mature and highly dynamic young professionals with background in inventory management, accounting, credit and collection and office administration. Will be responsible for credit administration, warehouse management, and supervision of branch operations personnel. Willing to be assigned anywhere. Degree holders preferably in Accounting, Management or Business Administration. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Interested individuals are requested to forward their résumé with the latest 2x2 photograph and credentials to:
Please indicate POSITION and LOCATION ON THE ENVELOPE or IN THE E-MAIL SUBJECT.
The HRD Division / HOUSE OF SARA LEE
2288 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City • P.O. Box No. 1450 MCPO
E-mail address: ESantos@hosl-ph.com

MG PRIME PHARMACEUTICAL INC.
AND
MEDGEN LABORATORIES INC.

Our dynamic companies are engage in manufacturing and distribution of high quality branded and generic medicines. These products are being carried respectively by two of the most respected chain of drugstores namely Mercury Drug and Rose Pharmacy. Our laboratory is currently accredited by the Department of Health.

We are in need of

EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTORS

We offer:

- Exclusive territory
- Quality medicines at competitive prices
- Marketing support
- Manpower training and orientation on government bidding
- Liberal credit terms

Please write or call:

#72 Richnmack Building, Mindanao Avenue
Project 6, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 929-6958 to 59, 454-6853
E-mail: mgprime@i-next.net

GYM INSTRUCTRESSES (FEMALE)

Age 30 years and above.
Must have minimum 5-7 years working experience on various Cardio Vascular machines and weights training programs and various weight loss programs. Preference to be given to applicants with Aerobics and Dietitian background.
Attractive terms and conditions will apply.

Please send immediately your resumé along with a latest photo profile to:

SHAPE N' DANCE
1198 Vito Cruz Ext., Makati City
Tel. No. 897-3707

International Co
wants to introduce new product.

Looking for

EXEC. WITH SALES AND MARKETING EXPERIENCE

Requirements:

- Fluent written and spoken English.
- 3 years + experience.
- Good local business-contacts.

Send your C.V. before 25 April 2001 to:

Unit 101/102,
104 H.V. Dela Costa Road,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

FOOD WORKERS & CAREGIVERS NEEDED ABROAD!

INCREASE YOUR CHANCES TO WORK ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD BY TAKING THE

FOOD SAFETY TRAINING SEMINAR!!!

IN ENGLISH
Tuition fee only P3000.- Valuable handouts and a certificate issued!

CANADIAN TRAINING SPECIALIST
& NORTH AMERICAN STANDARDS

Hallmark Career Enhancement (T.C.)

REGISTRATION OFFICE:
Unit #907- Vicente Madrigal Building
6793 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 6 PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

For further information call: 891 5602 and 891 5632

TRAINING VENUE DUSIT HOTEL

SPECIAL COMBO OFFER: THE FOOD SAFETY TRAINING SEMINAR AND A SEMINAR BY A CANADIAN CONSULTANT SPECIALIST OFFERED AT A SPECIAL PRICE

"Agencies, Restaurants and Hotels are encouraged to phone in for special quantity prices."

WANTED

MEDICAL PROMOTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

- Female, single between 21-27 years old
- With pleasing personality
- Self-motivated
- Hardworking
- At least 3 years in college

Please send your bio-data with 2x2 picture at:

151 San Francisco Street,
Mandaluyong City

URGENTLY NEEDED

PROJECT ENGINEERS (CE, EE or ARCH), preferably licensed, with at least five (5) years experience in hi-rise and civil works projects

SAFETY OFFICERS, preferably college graduates, ex[illegible]nd in safety and risks management procedures

[illegible]**Y OFFICERS**, preferably college graduates, [illegible]ministration and marketing, operation, [illegible]leasing of condominiums and other real

pl[illegible]

App[illegible]-data, picture and proofs of experience at J[illegible] Rm. 511 Doña Felisa Syjuco Building, Rem[illegible]treet corner Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila. (Pr[illegible]pplicants need not apply.)

ENCODERS

CALLING ALL FRESH GRADUATES!
(Any 4-year course)

Can type at least 40 [illegible]
Aptitude test will b[illegible]ril 29, 2001 (Sunday, 10:00 AM)
At Rm 609, 6th floo[illegible]tos[illegible]tower, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

For inquiry, please call Sharon or Rommel or Rhed.
Tel. 637-2755 or 637-1948

Conservation International - Philippines

Conservation International (CI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and conservation of the Earth's ecosystem and biodiversity. The CI Philippines program focuses on two important biodiversity corridors in the country - the Sierra Madre mountain range of northern Luzon and the forests and marine ecosystems of Palawan.

Position: **Communication and Education Specialist**

Position Summary:
Planning and managing CI P's Communication and education activities to ensure these are focused, feasible, appropriate and reflect the objectives of CI Philippines.

Scope of work includes the following:

Design, manage and evaluate communication activities for the Philippine program

- Provide strategies for the communication component;
- Manage the multiple media efforts, covering Information, Education and Communication activities;
- Develop and ensure quality of CI's publications and information material;
- Organize special publicity events and provide presence in PR activities
- Network with media and other NGOs.

Qualifications:

- Master's Degree or equivalent in Mass Communication or Development communication. Knowledge of social marketing is an advantage;
- Minimum three years work experience in related field;
- Good oral and written communication skills;
- Experience with Media and Publications.

Duration of the Position:

The position is for an initial period of six months

Please apply and mail your resumé by May 04, 2001 to:

Managing Director
Conservation International — Philippines
5 South Lawin Street
PhilAm Homes, Quezon City
email: ciphil@csi.com.ph

Conservation International - Philippines

Conservation International (CI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and conservation of the Earth's ecosystem and biodiversity. The CI Philippines program focuses on two important biodiversity corridors in the country - the Sierra Madre mountain range of northern Luzon and the forests and marine ecosystems of Palawan.

CI invites interested applicants to fill-in the position of

Finance Assistant

for the Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor Program. The position will be based in Tuguegarao City. The successful candidate will provide support in budget monitoring and controlling, and implementing the financial and accounting systems and procedures. He/she will also be responsible for the preparation of monthly financial reports.

Minimum Requirements: Graduate of BS Accountancy, with experience in general phases of accounting, knowledge of Microsoft office applications.

Please send your application and comprehensive resumé not later than April 30, 2001 to:

Finance and Administration Manager
Conservation International - Philippines
5 South Lawin Street
PhilAm Homes, Quezon City
email: ciphil@csi.com.ph

VSO

Sharing skills • Changing lives

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) is an international NGO that posts volunteers to developing countries in order to share their skills with local organisations. Established in 1958, it currently works in around 70 countries in Asia, Africa, and Eastern/Central Europe. VSO has been posting foreign volunteer professionals to the Philippines since 1968.

In 2000, VSO started recruiting qualified and experienced Filipinos to work as VSO volunteers overseas. This programme, known as the South-South Volunteering or "Bahaginan" offers a unique opportunity for Filipinos to work on two-year placements where they can share their skills and learn about another culture in the developing world.

VSO is currently recruiting a Filipino

Programme Co-ordinator

to manage the Bahaginan programme.

The co-ordinator will be responsible for the screening, selection, and pre-departure training of all Filipino volunteers, and will liaise with both U.K.-based VSO staff as well as various VSO programmes offices for their overseas placements. The co-ordinator will also be liaising with the Philippine National Volunteer Service Co-ordinating Agency with whom VSO has a memorandum of agreement concerning the programme.

The co-ordinator will work from the VSO Philippines programme office, but report directly to the Southern Volunteer Programmes manager who is based in the U.K. The post holder will play a key role in further developing the Bahaginan programme.

Essential skills, experience, and qualities for this position are:

- Staff and fund management, excellent communication skills, negotiation and strategic level analytical skills, computer literacy, understanding of the role of volunteers in development;
- At least 6 years experience in development work, of which at least 3 years must have been in a managerial role, experience of development work overseas;
- Assertiveness, flexibility, ability to work independently as well as with a team, understanding of other cultures, ability to work effectively under pressure, willingness to work long/irregular hours, sense of humour.

Please write geoff.brown@vso.org.uk for an application form. Deadline for submission of applications is May 4th 2001. We will respond only to candidates who will be invited to an interview in Manila on May 30th. The position holder must be able to start work on September 1st, on a two-year contract.

Canadian Immigration CONSULTANCY

www.go2canada.com

Free Assessment

MANILA OFFICE manila@go2canada.com
CEBU OFFICE cebu@go2canada.com
DAVAO OFFICE davao@go2canada.com
TAIWAN OFFICE taiwan@go2canada.com
TORONTO OFFICE toronto@go2canada.com
VANCOUVER OFFICE vancouver@go2canada.com

CGFNS & U.S. LICENSED NURSES

Do you want to avail of an **Immigrant Visa Petition for Free?**
WE DARE YOU...
COME & COMPARE
On

FREE

WHEN:	**May 3 & 4, 2001** **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**	**May 6, 2001** **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
WHERE:	**Badjao Function Room** **Century Park Hotel** **599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street** **1004 Malate, Manila**	**Function Room A & B** **Cebu Midtown Hotel** **Osmeña St.** **Cebu**

FREE

The Directors of **ST. BARNABAS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM** (St. Barnabas Medical Center, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Irvington General Hospital, Union Hospital, Clara Maass Medical Center, Community Medical Center, West Hudson Hospital, Kimball Medical Center, Monmouth Medical Center and 8 Long Term Care Facilities) in New Jersey, U.S.A. are coming to interview **NURSES.**

NURSES !

Don't Deal Yourself a Joker When you can Have an Ace

A ♣ The GOOD things we offer
- **Free** Processing of Immigrant Visa Petition
- **Free** Agency Fee
- **Free** Airfare (Manila to U.S.A.)

A ♦ BETTER Benefits Package
- Paid Vacation/ Holiday
- Sick Leave
- Insurance

A ♥ the BEST
- Competitive Salaries
- Excellent Benefits and Incentives
- Outstanding Working Condition
- Continuing Education

"NO SALARY DEDUCTION, ALL FEES PAID BY THE HOSPITALS"
** Ms. Amelia J. Olegario from New Jersey will be on hand to assist the Hospital Directors*

Please bring:

Typewritten Resumé and Original Documents (CGFNS Certificate, TOEFL, TSE, ICHP) College Diploma, High School Diploma, Birth Certificate, Marriage Contract if married, Transcript of Records, Related Learning Experience, PRC Certificate, Board Rating, PRC ID., 6 pcs. Passport size picture and Employment Certificate with area of exposure.

For more information: Please contact **Ms. ELSIE T. DELA CURA** of **EA Int'l. Placement,** Rm. 203-204 Aurora Plaza Bldg., J. Bocobo cor. Arquiza Sts., Ermita, Manila, Telephone Nos. 526-6431, 526-4642, 525-8756. **Or EA Branch Office in Bacolod City Tel. 034-4338971 or 034 4343009.**

LOURDES SCHOOL OF MANDALUYONG

Shaw Blvd., City of Mandaluyong
Tel. Nos. 631-6310; 631-6307; 631-6356; 632-9547
Fax No. 631-6310

WANTED FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2001-2002

GRADE SCHOOL TEACHERS

PREPARATORY (MAJOR IN CHILD STUDY AND DEVELOPMENT)
ELEMENTARY (BEEd - MATH, ENGLISH, SCIENCE, ARALING PANLIPUNAN)

APPLICANTS MUST BE CATHOLIC, NOT MORE THAN 35 YEARS OLD, WITH ABOVE AVERAGE SCHOLASTIC RECORDS AND MUST HAVE PASSED THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR TEACHERS.

COME FOR PERSONAL INTERVIEW ON APRIL 24, 2001 FROM 8:00 A.M - 3:00 PM AND BRING YOUR TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS.

INTERIOR DESIGNER

- Female, 21-28 years old
- Graduate of Interior Design
- Must have very good color coordination and combination skills
- Must have good drawing and sketching abilities
- Must have good communication skills
- With pleasing personality

Job Description:

- Will be the showroom salesperson selling high-end European furniture from Giorgio Saporiti & Mainati
- Will help client choose the right color, fabric, design of furniture to match client's interior
- Will make and submit colored drawings of furniture pieces to clients to aid them in visualization.

TO SEE THE PRODUCTS YOU ARE GOING TO SELL VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.dexterton.com click new products

Interested applicants may mail resumé with 2x2 photo and transcript of records to:

Dexterton Industrial Corp.
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St., 1115 Quezon City, Philippines

JOB OPENING

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
(TO BE BASED IN TRECE MARTIRES, CAVITE)

SECRETARY
- Female, coll. grad., computer literate
- 20-30 yrs. old, 5'3 to 5'5 hgt., w/ pleasing personality
- 2 yrs. Experience in a related field is required
- prof. Know how to speak Japanese language

SCHOOL CLERICAL STAFF
- College graduate, knowledge in computer & typing
- 5'2 to 5'5 hgt., pleasing personality
- Experienced required

JAPANESE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR
- Male/Female, college graduate
- Irrespective of nationality
- w/ at least 2 yrs. Experienced in teaching

REQUIREMENTS:
Resumé w/ 4pcs. recent 2x2 photo, college diploma, certificate of employment, good moral character from the school last attended, NBI, Police & Brgy. Clearance

INTERVIEW: APR. 17 & 25, 2001 / 10:AM - 3:PM

M A P P FOUNDATION
3rd Flr. Suite 25 Legaspi Towers 300, Roxas Blvd., cor. Vito Cruz, Malate, Manila
Tel. # 525-5387, 535-5451 Email: www.mapp@mapp.org.ph

ARELLANO (MANILA NORTH) BATCH '76 HOMECOMING

The graduates of Batch '76 of Arellano (Manila North) High School (AHS) T. Alonzo Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila will hold its Silver Jubilee Homecoming on April 29, 2001 at 2:00 PM at the AHS Quadrangle. Guest speakers will be Dr. Ma. Luisa Quiñones, Superintendent-Division of City Schools, Manila; Cong. Harry Angping, Congressman, and Atty. Jhosep Lopez, former councilor of Manila's 3rd District. For details, please contact: Becca Reyes (258-8340), Ted Olguera (525-3401; 400-9223), Cristy Aviles (740-9669), and Elvie Puno Dayrit (833-6982; 552-7253) or email tenoriosantos@yahoo.com

WANTED:

B.S. Nursing Graduate
Preferably Board Passer
Call: 4000915/5228246

GIA THAILAND CAMPUS

Gemological Institute of America

Learn about Gems and Jewelry

From the world's foremost authority in gemology
70 year history of excellence in education
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The GIA Graduate Gemologist Diploma; the most recognized gemological credential

Next G.G. Program starts May 28, 2001

GIA Thailand Campus

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giathai@ksc15.th.com www.giathailand.com

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

4 ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Male/Female, college graduate w/ Marketing background, preferably in travel related field.

1 SECRETARY

Female, single with pleasing personality, 20-30 years old.

1 DRIVER

Male, with 2 years experience, prof. driver's license.

Apply personally to:

KANGAROO TRAVEL CORPORATION
Ground Floor,
Bayview Park Hotel,
Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila

FOR SALE BAR DISCO CLUB

- Spacious 500 sqm. floor area
- Full Brand New Live Band Equipment
- Full Disco Sound Systems
- Fully equipped KTV Rooms
- Complete kitchen
- Large car parking area
- Laundry with heavy duty washing/drying machines
- Back-up Gen set 25KVA (Compact Machine)
- Long Term, Lease Contract with 10 years still to run, at a very reasonable rental
- Good Location along Marigondon Highway, Mactan, Lapu-Lapu City.

See our WEBSITE at www.paralsoazul.net For more info/viewing appointments
Please call David on:

Cell phone: 0917-6493758 and 0917-6963164
Office: 2333103/2333105/2333107
Fax: 2333109
or call Olger 09176130807/(032) 3403429
email: davidjowett@yahoo.com

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Aklan
MUNICIPALITY OF MADALAG

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a Loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Component for which this invitationn to pre-qualify and to bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of Madalag, Aklan, as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, intends to pre-qualify contractors and if pre-qualified, to bid for the rehabilitation/ construction of the Sub-project located in Timbaban ARC Madalag, Aklan, titled;

   Bacyang - Mercedes - Galicia Road, with a total length of 2.80 kilometers.

   Approved Agency Estimate (AAE) = P7,888,758.60

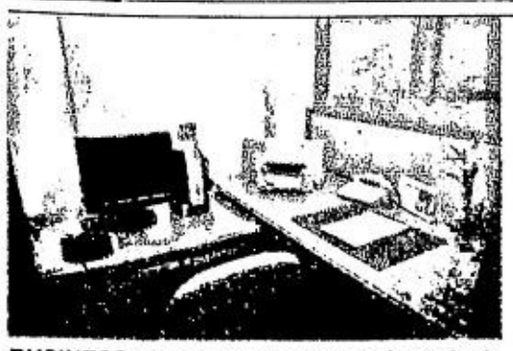
   Minimum Equipment required:

1 unit	Prime Mover	- Owned/Leaded
2 units	Bulldozer	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Backhoe	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Grader	- Owned
1 unit	Roller	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Water Truck	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Loader	- Owned
4 units	Dumptruck	- Owned
2 units	2-B Mixer	- Owned
1 unit	Plate compactor	- Owned
2 units	Conc. Vibrator	- Owned

3. Pre-qualification documents and bidding documents may be acquired by interested bidders at the Municipal Hall of Madalag, Aklan from **April 22-27, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for pre-qualification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman, PBAC, Municipality of Madalag, Aklan not later than 5:00 p.m. on **May 4, 2001.**
5. A pre-bidding conference will be held at the Municipal Hall of Madalag, Aklan at 9:00 a.m. on **May 21, 2001.**
6. Submission and opening of bids will be on **June 4, 2001.** No bids will be accepted later than 12:00 Noon. Opening of bids will be at 1:00 p.m. The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 calendar days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
7. The PBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO R. INOSANTO**
Municipal Mayor/Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Apr. 21, 22 & 24, 2001)



BUSINESS travelers can do videoconferencing in any of the meeting rooms at the business center.

GUESTS can use the health club with its hot jacuzzi and cold plunge areas.

ONE of Edsa Shangri-La's popular suites is the Spa Suite. At $430 a night, a guest can enjoy the bathroom equipped with a jacuzzi, steam bath and separate walk-in shower stall.

MOST of Edsa Shangri-La's rooms come with a fax and data ports where guests can plug in their computers.

Hotel claims more deals are made amid greenery and floral patterns

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

LARGE corporations with operations in many parts of the country regularly come together to provide people updates on the latest developments in the company, celebrate anniversaries or to listen to speakers from abroad.

Top executives and managers also hold small meetings with business partners, suppliers and prospective clients but they sometimes lack the necessary facilities.

The Edsa Shangri-La deluxe hotel at 1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City provides the venue.

With its Isla and Garden Way ballrooms that can seat 1,400 and 400 guests, respectively, and a choice of 13 function rooms, it can host large gatherings or small meetings or even theme parties.

The ballrooms and the function rooms come with audio-visual equipment, stages and microphones as well as event management specialists who are on hand to make sure the event runs smoothly.

Shangri-La communications director Milen G. Treichler tells SundayBiz that the hotel gets a lot of bookings from the manufacturing sector such as pharmaceutical companies. It also gets a lot of business from the Asian Development Bank as well as from multinational companies like food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

Treichler says many organizers choose Edsa Shangri-La because of its central location and its casual ambiance. People tend to do more business amid a lot of greenery and flowers or floral patterns in the carpet, paintings and in the décor.

"We also get a lot of the conventions because we have the biggest facilities next only to the Philippine International Convention Center. We are also easily accessible to those coming from the Makati area and from the north," Treichler says.

THE EDSA Shangri-La has the biggest convention and banquet facilities after the Philippine International Convention Center. It can accommodate 1,400 guests at the Isla Ballroom and another 400 at the Garden Ballroom.

The 658-room resort hotel managed by Hong Kong based Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts is also a preferred hotel by business travelers, particularly the executive Horizon Club floors that come with butler service and a private lounge offering complimentary breakfast and cocktails.

For travelers looking for relaxation, the hotel has the Spa Suite which has a bathroom equipped with a jacuzzi, steam bath and separate walk-in shower stall, and a health club with facilities for a workout or relaxation with its wide selection of spa treatments.

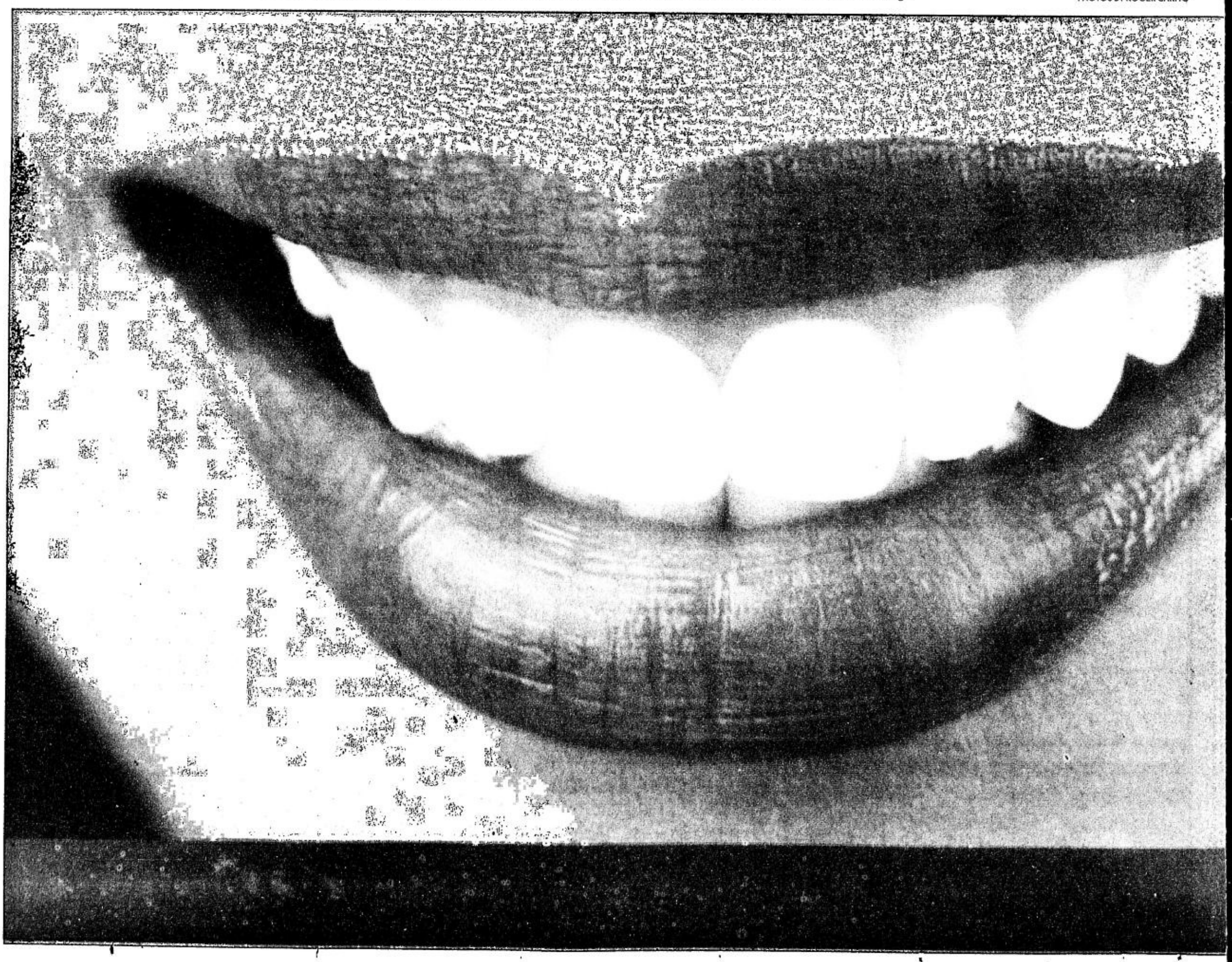
Treichler says the occupancy rate is hovering at between 50 percent and 60 percent these days as the hotel industry is still reeling from the dip in the tourism industry. She, however, says that the numbers are inching up with the onset of the convention season this month and the pick-up in business activities.

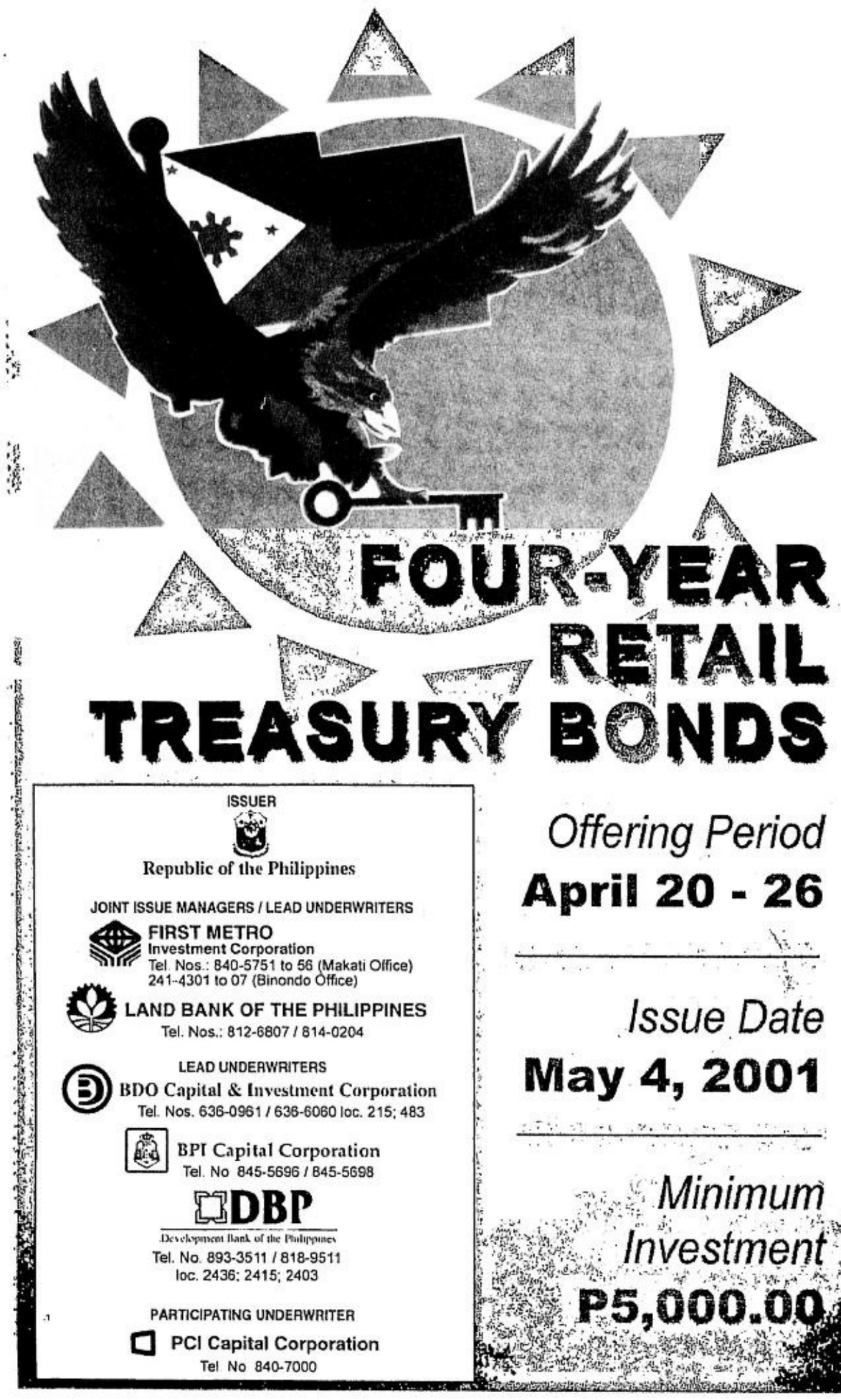
FOR BUSINESS travelers who want a higher level of personalized service, there is the Horizon Club with its 64 guest rooms and the Horizon Club lounge.

FOR the executive on a break from a busy convention, Edsa Shangri-La has the facilities for a workout or relaxation with its fitness area and spa.

ASIDE from a ballroom, the hotel also offers a choice of 13 function rooms for smaller meetings.

PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO





Four-Year Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs)

1. **What are 4-Year RTBs?**
   These are Government Securities which will mature after 4 years for which coupon or yield shall be paid on a quarterly basis.

2. **Why should an investor invest in RTBs?**
   Because the RTBs are issued by the Republic of the Philippines, they are risk free (payment guaranteed), high yielding, tradeable and affordable.

3. **Who can purchase RTBs?**
   Any investor who has at least P5,000.00 can purchase RTBs. An investor can invest up to a maximum of P2,000,000.00.

4. **How does an investor participate in the Public Offering?**
   The investor fills up an Application to Purchase Form and submits this together with 2 valid IDs and payment. For corporations, copies of Board Resolutions indicating authorized signatories and specimen signatures and the payment are required.

5. **After the Public Offering, can an investor still buy or sell RTBs?**
   Yes, the RTBs can be bought and sold at the secondary market at prevailing market prices.

6. **What are the risks involved in investing in RTBs?**
   Because they are the direct and unconditional obligation of the Republic of the Philippines, RTBs are **RISK FREE** (payment guaranteed).

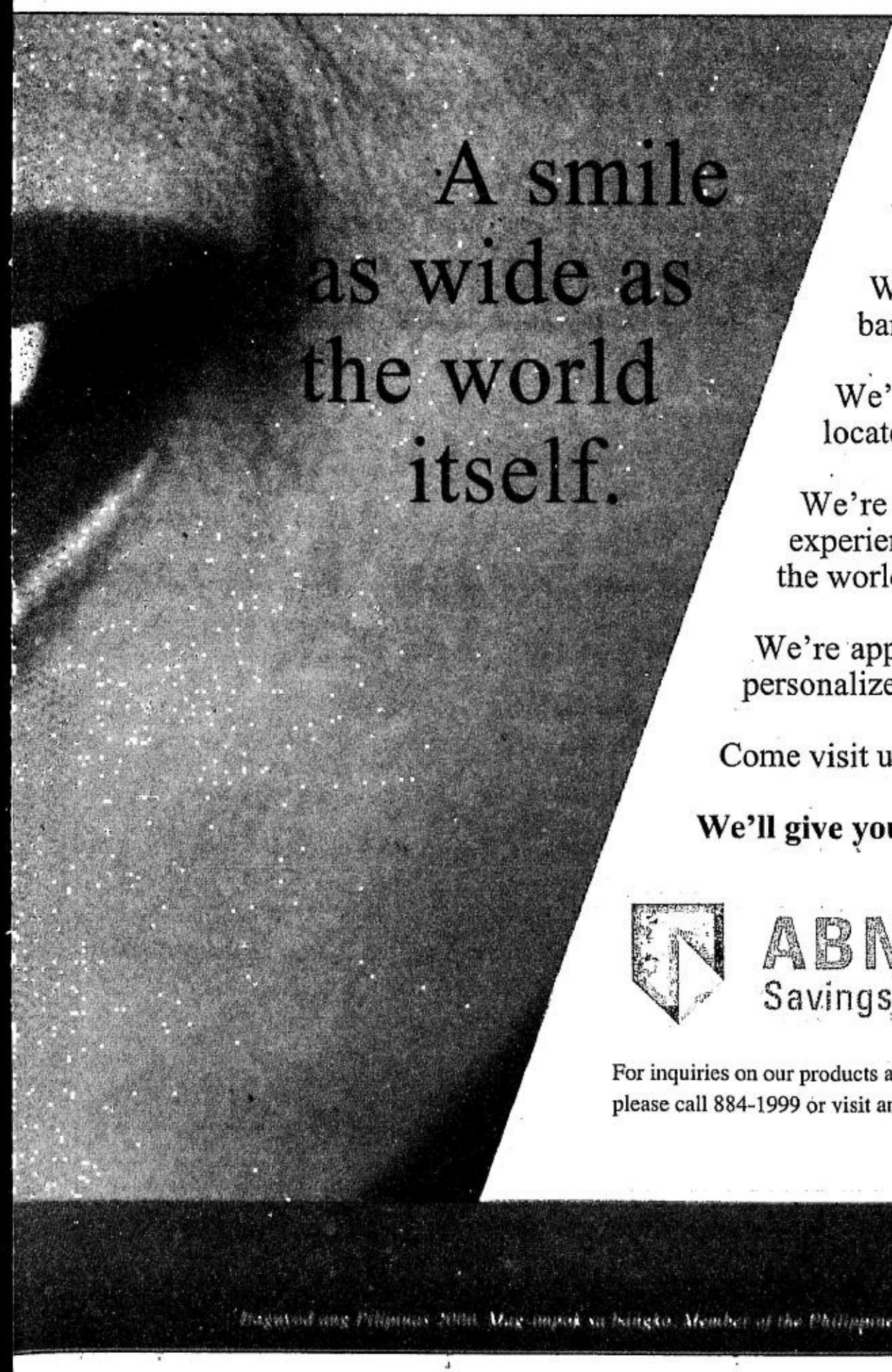
7. **How much will an investor gain if he invests in RTBs?**

   Actual Computation :

Face Value	P5,000.00
Coupon Rate p.a.	14.25%
Gross Quarterly Coupon	178.12
Less Withholding Tax (20%)	35.62
End Quarterly Coupon	P142.50

8. **What is an investor's proof of ownership?**
   The Investor is given a duly acknowledged copy of the Application to Purchase Form with a Confirmation of Sale (COS).

9. **Where can an investor purchase RTBs?**
   An investor can purchase RTBs from the following Underwriters or any of their branches or business centers.



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6801 Ayala Ave. Makati City 1200

GAMBOA
116 Gamboa St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

SALCEDO VILLAGE
Shell House Building,
156 Valero cor. Villar Sts.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

ALABANG
Casa Vicente Building,
Alabang Commercial Center

BINONDO
E.T. Yuchengco Building,
Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila

KATIPUNAN
Burgundy Place Cond.
Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights
Quezon City

ORTIGAS
Strata 100 Building, Emerald Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

LIBIS
G/F IBM Plaza Building,
Eastwood City, E. Rodriguez Ave.,
Libis, Quezon City

QUEZON CITY
JSB Building,
Tomas Morato cor. Scout Delgado,
Quezon City

BAGUIO
Gamaphel Building,
cor. Calderon & Claudio Sts.,
Baguio City

DAGUPAN
Guanzon Building,
Perez Boulevard Dagupan City

NAGA
Romar II Building,
Dinaga cor. Caceres Sts., Naga City

SAN FERNANDO
Gopiao Building,
Dolores San Fernando, Pampanga

SAN PABLO
Colago Avenue, San Pablo City

CEBU
Danaque Building,
Osmeña Blvd. Capitol Site, Cebu City

CAGAYAN
Jose Vicenta Building,
J.R. Borja Street, Cagayan de Oro City

DAVAO
Upper Ground Floor
Gaisano Mall, J.P. Laurel Ave. Bajada,
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Rev. Fr. Armando Tipones, S.S.S., Provincial Superior, the religious of the
CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT,
and the Vasquez Family
request you to pray for the repose of the soul of

REV. FR. HONORIO "NORY" P. VASQUEZ, S.S.S.

The Founder of the Blessed Sacrament Vocation Club (BSVC)
First Filipino Regional Superior 1991-1993
First Filipino Provincial Superior 1993-1996
Director of Provincial Development Office
Director of the Sacramentino Mission Partners

Born in Guinobatan, Albay on December 29, 1947
First Profession of Vows: May 12, 1973
Ordained a Priest: May 2, 1977
Died: April 19, 2001

His remains lay in state (April 20-24) at the BLESSED SACRAMENT PROVINCIALATE, 20 Sunnyside Drive, New Manila, Quezon City and will be transferred to Sta. Cruz Church on Tuesday, April 24 at 5:00 AM.

Interment at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the Eucharistic Celebration on Thursday, April 26, 2001, 9:00 AM at Sta. Cruz Church, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

(Please omit flowers. Donations will be appreciated for the support of the Blessed Sacrament Seminarians)

Rule of Life #13
"Comforted by the prayer of the community and by the Eucharist received as viaticum, our brothers will be ready to die in the Lord. The death of a brother shall be celebrated as a paschal event, in a prayer filled with hope. We will faithfully carry out the prescribed suffrages for our deceased."

NEMESIA C. NATIVIDAD

(Of Tipas, Taguig, Metro Manila)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 18, 2001 at the age of 77.

Her sister **Susana N. Sañga**; her brothers **Juanito** (†) and **Alfonso** (†) and sister **Elena** (†); her sisters-in-law, brother-in-law, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington East Funeral Homes at C. Raymundo Cor. Mercedes Ave., Pasig City and will be transferred at Dambanang Kawayan Church at Tipas, Taguig, Metro Manila at 7:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 24, 2001.

Interment at the Garden of Memories, Pateros, Metro Manila follows after the funeral Mass at 2:30 p.m. of the same day.

MAGDALENA S. CANTOR

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 19, 2001 at the age of 93.

Her late husband **FELIPE E. CANTOR** (†); loving children and in-laws **RODOLFO** and **SUNONTHA**, **LUZ** and **PROSPERO**, **NORMA** and **CLEVERIO**, **JAIME** (†) and **FLORITA** and **ESTELA** and **JOHNNY**; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Bahay Carmelo, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Church, Road 8, Project 6, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park (Marikina) on Tuesday, April 24, 2001, after the 8:00 AM Mass.

In loving memory on the
30th Anniversary of
JOSE V. BERSAMIRA
April 29, 1971
7th Death Anniversary of
ROGELIO M. DELA ROSA
April 22, 1994
Masses will be offered at the St. Joseph Shrine and the UP Holy Sacrifice Chapel. The family request the relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of their souls.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

JOSEPHINE "JOSIE" MARQUEZ-MALIXI

who peacefully went home to our Lord & Creator on February 12, 2001.

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all relatives and friends who offered Masses and prayers for her soul's repose, gave flowers, conveyed consoling messages of sympathy and most especially kept us company with their comforting presence during our moment of grief. Truly, she is with Someone who loves her far more than anyone could. Our special appreciation goes to the **Marquez and Malixi Clans, Senior Citizens' Circle of Valle Verde 5, Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community, Life in the Spirit Seminar of Valle Verde 5 Batch #1, Da Capo Quartet, U.P. Cherubim and Seraphim Alumni, The International Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi U.P. Chapter, U.P. Sigma Delta Phi Sorority, Bukas Palad Music Ministry, and The Philippine Madrigal Singers** for giving Mom a unique and fitting farewell.

May our good Lord continue to shower His blessings on all those who in one way or another have touched Mom's life.

CARMEN DOANE NG

October 8, 1913 - April 17, 2001
(widow of the late **Ng Li Ping**)

Her beloved children, **EDDIE, NENA, MANUEL, PAQUITO** and **RUDY** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on April 24, 2001, 2:00 PM at the Eternal Garden.

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MESSAGE OF THANKS

WE, THE FAMILY OF THE LATE

Agnes "Girlie" F. Domingo

Who joined her creator on January 31, 2001

Wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to all our relatives, friends, and all those who sent flowers, offered masses, prayers and donations, called from abroad, attended the funeral rites, helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement. May God grant you abundant blessings for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Thank you very much.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031, 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave.,
San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch:
A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Cumus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086;
(047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City
Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St.,
Manuguit, Manila
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Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
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Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOQUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City
Tels. 641-7909, 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila
Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila
Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 825-1296, 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
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1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
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Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210
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264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
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Mandalagan, Bacolod City
Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-1204
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City
Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749 3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286 / 87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7646; 843-1801; 846-4836

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Fax No.: (632) 813-78-56

NOTICE

Please be informed that provisional receipts with serial numbers **30190** and below are deemed cancelled and void unless collections are remitted to I-Care head office or to any of our provincial offices not later than April 30, 2001 and corresponding official receipts are issued.

I-Care holds no obligations arising from the issuance of these provisional receipts after April 30, 2001.

MANAGEMENT

(PDI -- April 15 & 22, 2001)

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC), a government controlled corporation, wishes to invite interested parties to submit proposals for consultancy in the operationalization of, as well as the management of the NGC Commonwealth Market located at Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. The work involved covers the following:

1. Business Planning Services
2. Market Operations and Administration
3. Financial Controllership

Interested parties should have a minimum of two (2) years experience in market management or related discipline.

The terms of reference and the details about the market may be obtained on or before **April 27, 2001** at HGC, Developmental Project Department at 2nd Floor, Morning Star Center, #347 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City or call tel. nos. **897-3217** & **897-3290**. Deadline for submission of proposal is on May 11, 2001.

(PDI - Apr 22, 2001)

INVITATION TO BID THRU SEALED BIDDING (AS IS WHERE IS) - VESSELS SPARE PARTS

MAIN ENGINES:

1. Fuji 8M32CHC
2. Hanshin 6L46SH, 6LU38
3. Hitachi B&W 842VT2BF90
4. IHI Pielstick 16 PC2 - 2V, NKK SEMT Pielstick 12 PC - 2V
5. Kawasaki MAN R6V 52/55
6. MHI MAN 18V 40/54, 18V 50/54, V9V 52/55
7. Mitsui B & W 742VT2BF90
8. Niigata 8MG31 AX, 6LI 65

GENERATING ENGINES:

1. Daihatsu 6PSHTC - 26D, 8PSHTB - 26D, 6DS - 22, 6DLB - 19, 5 PST - 20
2. Hitachi B & W 521 MTBH - 30
3. Tanabe HC - 65 A
4. Yanmar 5KL, 5MAL, 6KFL - HT

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. As is where is.
2. One (1) whole lot located and maybe inspected at NN Iloilo Warehouse with prior appointment.
3. Minimum bid price is One Hundred Seventy Eight Million Four Hundred Ten and Four Hundred Two Philippine Pesos (P178,410,402.00).
4. Required refundable/deductible deposit of 10% of the minimum bid price (Cash or Manager's Check payable to Negros Navigation Co., Inc).
5. Balance payable immediately upon notice.
6. Any winning bidder who does not push through for reasons beyond its control be subject to all expenses or charges accruing.
7. The management reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids in its discretion for any reason whatsoever.

You may submit your sealed bid on or before 30 April 2001.

Disposal Committee
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.
Pier 2, North Harbor, Manila, Philippines
Telephone No. (0632) 2413393, 2450601 loc. 3046
Fax No. (0632) 2435224
E-mail address: gideerit@surfshop.net.ph

Thru: Ms. Gardenia T. De Erit
Assistant Vice President - Purchasing and Materials Mgt.

"WE WILL BE THE BEST WE CAN BE"

NEGROS NAVIGATION CO., INC.

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that the following BILLING INVOICES and OFFICIAL RECEIPTS have been declared lost:

INVOICE NOS.:	OFFICIAL RECEIPT NOS.:
4116	4116
4117	4117
4124	4124
4125	4125

Any transactions covered by the above numbered invoices and receipts will not be honored by the company.

Schutter Philippines, Inc.
3rd Floor, Aboitiz Building
110 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Telephone No. 840-1049

(PDI -- Apr. 22, 2001)

PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT COMMAND
Clark Air Base, Philippine Air Force
(Air Force City)
Angeles City, Pampanga

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Air Force invites all interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the IRAN (Inspection and Repair as Necessary) of One Aero Commander Aircraft.

The Pre-qualification Conference will be held on **18 May 2001** at 0830 AM at the Air Logistics and Support Command Conference Room, Air Force City, Clark Field, Pampanga.

Bidding schedule shall be announced to all pre-qualified bidders.

The Philippine Air Force reserves the right to reject all bids, waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please contact MAJOR HENRY B. SALVADOR, Tel. No. **0919-2353229** ALSC, Air Force City, Clark Field, Pampanga.

(Sgd.) **EDWIN N. GALZOTE**
Colonel, PAF(GSC)
CHAIRMAN, PAFSBAC

(PDI - Apr 22 2001)

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

BITS & Clips

AIM lecture on Net crimes

THE W. SyCip Policy Center of the Asian Institute of Management, in cooperation with the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy of the United States, is holding a lecture on "Internet Crimes: Status and Prevention." It will be held on Monday, April 23 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the SGV Hall, third floor of the AIM Conference Center, Makati City. For inquiries, call the Policy Center at 750-1010 loc. 2102 or 751-9182.

Marist High general assembly

MARIST High School batch of 1979 will have its first general assembly today, April 22 at 3 p.m. at Marist. The gathering will finalize the constitution, by-laws and directors of the Marist School batch '79. For details call Ricky Gumaru at 892-0272.

'Jobs on Air' on labor-management rapport

RADIO program "Jobs on Air" talks about current labor-management relations in the Philippines today, April 22. NLRC chair Roy Seneres and ECOP president Donald Dee have been invited to grace the program. Hosted by Barbie Atienza, FPM, "Jobs on Air" is aired over DWSS 1494 AM today from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Ubaldo book launch

GRAND Post International (Philippines), Inc. will sponsor the book launching of Dr. Jqsef de Ubaldo, DSc on Monday, April 23 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The book "Perspectives on Natural Health: An Anthology of Holistic Medicine" is a compilation of De Ubaldo's researches, articles, speeches and lectures for the past five years. De Ubaldo is a recipient of the Star of Asia award in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Ateneo theater workshop

SOCIAL Science teachers will give more dynamic classes after they attend "Theatre for Social Science Teachers," a workshop on presentational skills for more effective social science teaching. It will be held from Monday, April 23 to May 12 at the Social Science Building, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. For further information, call the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at 426-6001 loc. 5270 and ask for Bernadette or e-mail socio@admu.edu.ph.

Easter exhibit sale ends today

The St. Alphonsus Mary De Ligouri Parish in Magallanes Village ends its two-week fund-raising exhibit today, April 22 with 14 of the country's most prominent sculptors rendering their own small-scale version of the 14 stations of the Cross. The exhibit also contains other works of the sculptors, which shall be offered for sale. Everyone is invited.

MFI's HRM, labor meet set

THE CENTER for Values and Professional Development of Meralco Foundation, Inc. will conduct a half-day lecture on HRM and labor relations on Tuesday, April 24 at the Manila Galleria Suites, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig. The talk starts 9 a.m. to 12 noon. For more information, call the MFI at 632-0756 to 67 and ask for Allan, Cel or Sheree.

VMV at al Estilo de...

The full range of VMV products can be experienced at al Estilo de... VMV also features two of celebrated Spanish painter Valeria Cavestany's recent works in VMV ads for its lipstick shades Ambrosia: "Man of 1000 Faces and "Women in Love." Both works can be viewed at Finale Art File, 4th floor, LaO Center, Makati Avenue corner Pasay Road.

Tomica Club get-together

LOTS of exciting, fun-filled activities highlight this year's summer get-together of the Tomica Collector's Club today, April 22, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sulo Hotel poolside in Diliman, Quezon City. The affair is expected to bring together more than 1,000 collectors of Tomica die-cast car models from all over the country.

Unique art course in QC

ART Pack founder Bambi Cordero conducts alternative art courses in Quezon City this summer. Among the courses are Deco-Stained Glass Simulation on April 22 and 29; Mirror Frost Spectrum on May 6; Porcelain Painting on May 13; Decoupage and Antiquing Technique on May 20 and 27, Clay Sculpting on June 3 and 10 and Copper Etching on June 17. For inquiries, call Ann at 932-4428 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, or text 0917-9400909 or e-mail clara@pinoymusika.com.

Palanca awards broadens scope

BEGINNING this year, former Filipino citizens or Filipinos who have changed their citizenship can now join in any of the Palanca awards categories. The organizers of the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature believe this new ruling will provide more Filipinos abroad a venue to express themselves and a chance to be part of Philippine literary history. Entries for poetry, short story, one-act play, full-length play, informal essay, short story for children, teleplay, screenplay, and future fiction will be accepted until midnight of April 30. Entries can also be sent via e-mail through cpawards@info.com.ph. Entry forms and contest rules are available at the Carlos Palanca Foundation, Inc., ground floor CPJ Building, 105 C. Palanca Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. For inquiries, call 818-3681 to 85 locals 31 and 24.

UST post-grad course

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Hospital Division of Family Medicine will hold its 12th annual post-graduate course "Physician, Patient and Family: Working Together Towards Optimum Health" on Wednesday, April 25 to 27 at the CME Auditorium, St. Martin de Porres (Medicine Building), University of Santo Tomas, Espana, Manila. For more information, call Trinidad Solis or Dr. Jasmin Lim Victoria at 731-3001 loc. 2370 or fax 781-2025. Interested parties may also e-mail mttmguison@hotmail.com

Ecop's NCE XXII kicks off

THE 22ND National Conference of Employers (NCE XXII) organized by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) kicks off on Thursday, April 26 to 27 at the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati City. NCE XXII is a bold attempt of employers to strategize the position of the Philippines in the global market. Capping the closing ceremonies will be the proclamation of this year's winners of the Kapatiran sa Industriya (Kapatid) Awards.

'Booba' leads Exofat tour

DIET medication Exofat will be holding a one-day "Celebrity Botica Tour" led by sexy comedienne Ruffa Mae Quinto on Friday, April 27. The Exofat Celebrity Caravan visits SM North Edsa's Family Drugstore and New Southstar at 12 noon, SM Centerpoint at 3 p.m. and SM Megamall at 5 p.m. For more details, call the Exofat Advantage Hotline at 638-1691 to 93 or e-mail exofat@germed.com.ph.

Mansmith and Fielders seminar

MANSMITH and Fielders, Inc. will hold the seminar "38th Marketing Strategy and Plans" for entrepreneurs, marketing, brand and sales managers starting Tuesday, April 24 to 26 at the Dusit Hotel in Makati City. For details, call 7236671, 7222318 or 7277142, or e-mail mansmith@i-manila.com.ph.

Logo design tilt at Manila FAME

FILIPINO designers will join Manila FAME International's logo design competition. The Manila FAME is a flagship of the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, an agency of the DTI. The April 2001 MFI is open to the public on Wednesday, April 25, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call CITEM's Softgoods Division at 831-1265 or 831-2201 to 09 locals 203 and 226; fax numbers 832-3965 or 834-0177; e-mail softgoods@citem.com.ph, or visit www.citem.com.ph.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PROCUREMENT & LOGISTICS SERVICE
Bldg. 26 San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. No. (632) 743-83-01 loc. 3626 & 3627

April 13, 2001

INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB NO. 2001-5-24 [1] & [2]

The Department of Health hereby invites sealed written bids for the provision of the following services for the calendar year 2001 on the following scheduled calendar of activities:

	PRE-BIDDING	OPENING OF BIDS
I. SECURITY SERVICES (IFB No. 2001-5-24 [1])	May 9, 2001 @ 9:00 a.m.	May 24, 2001 @ 10:00 a.m.
II. JANITORIAL SERVICES (IFB No. 2001-5-24 [2])	May 9, 2001 @ 11:00 a.m.	May 24, 2001 @ 2:00 p.m.

All the above activities will be held at the Multi Media Center of Excellence, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Interested parties who can provide the above services may obtain bid documents from the Procurement and Logistics Service, Department of Health, Manila from **April 30 to May 21, 2001 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** and upon submission of letter of intent and payment of non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos only (PhP 2,000.00)** for each bidding documents.

Bids must be delivered on or before the scheduled opening date, time and place. Prior to bid opening, pre-bid conference will be held as indicated on the above schedule.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bidder's bond in the form of the following: (a) Unconditional Bank Guarantee. (b) Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a reputable bank, (c) G.S.I.S. Bond. (d) Manager's Check. (e) Cashier's/Certified Check or (f) Any combination of the above proportionate to share of form with respect to total amount of security in the amount of **two and a half (2.5%) percent** and must be **valid for thirty days (30) beyond the validity of bid.**

For further information, please contact **Ms. Carolina P. Horradura**, Director, or **Ms. Bernadette G. Ipac**, Chief, Procurement Division of the Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg 26, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila or call 743-83-01 local 3626 & 3627 or 338-34-13.

The Department of Health hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the Department of Health and to Local Health Units.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office-Bid and Awards Committee

(PDI--April 21, 22 & 29, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is advised that **Isagani Carmelo C. Tuazon Jr. (a.k.a. Sonny Tuazon)** whose picture appears above is wanted for Qualified Thief and has been issued a warrant of arrest with NO BAIL. His last known address is at No. 8, E. Ragas St., Sta. Ana, Pateros, Metro Manila. Any information that will lead to his arrest will be rewarded and may be given at telephone # 926-4248.

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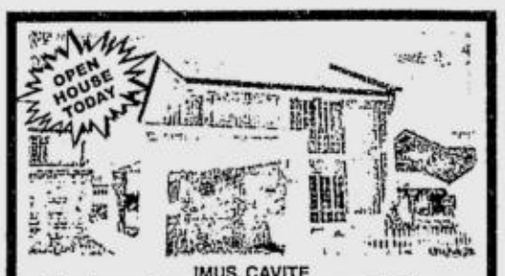

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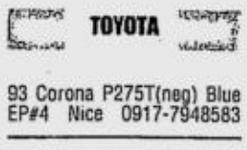

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PASCUAL G. NARCISO has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No.12151; Page No.33; Book No.25; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Angelito C. Baclig of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.
PDI-April 8, 15 & 22, 2001

NOTICE OF LOSS

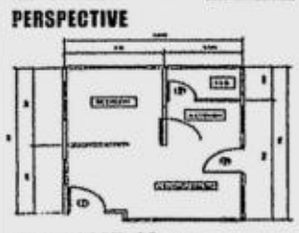
THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT S2 No. 979292 OF DR. ROSEMARIE M. SAMSON WAS LOST

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF MANAOAG
Virgin Mother of God, Queen of the most Holy Rosary, thou, who hast chosen to raise thy throne of mercy in Manaoag, to be the beloved protectress and Patron of the Province of Pangasinan, and therefrom to bestow thy graces on us, thy children, banished in this valley of tears, look down with thine eyes of mercy upon me, who am beset with so many dangers of body and soul. Despite not my petition, O dearest Mother, but intercede for me before thy divine Son now and at the hour of my death. Amen. *Virgin of Manaoag, pray for us.*

ATTENTION!!!

PERSPECTIVE



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PERSONAL

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May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.
St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.
Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.
Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

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Thank You MAMA MARY

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RESIDENTIAL	MINIMUM BID
QUEZON CITY	
1) Resl H & L -1sty, 3BR, 2TB / Lot 25 Blk 31, Salubong St., Lagro Subd, Novaliches / LA – 200 FA -161	1,431,000
2) Resl H & L -2sty, 3BR, 2TB, w/ garage & attic / L3 B 5, Waling-waling St., Nomar II Subdivision, Bo. San Bartolome, Novaliches / LA-240 FA-224.05	2,556,000
3) Resl Thouse. -2sty, 2BR, 2TB w/ terrace & garage / Unit 1-E, Don Damaso Townhomes, Don Antonio Heights Subdivision, / LA-34.6 FA-55.29	1,100,000
PASIG	
4) Res. Bldg - 2sty / Lot 16 Blk 2, Yakal St., F. Agapito Subdivision , Santolan, Pasig City / LA - 245	3,589,000
5) Resl H & L - 2sty, 5BR, 3TB w/ attic / L5 B139, Karangalan Drive, Karangalan Village, Santolan, Pasig / LA-135.57 FA-206	1,771,000
SAN JUAN	
6) Resl. Condo. - 2 BR, 2 TB, w/ maid's room & parking / Unit 1203 Platinum 2000, Annapolis Street, Greenhills / FA-113.6 PS-12.6	4,640,000
CAINTA	
7) Resl H & L -split level residential bldg., 4 BR, 1 TB, w/ garage / Lot 16-B Blk 14, Board Walk Drive, Park Place Subdivision, Cainta / LA-150 FA-207	2,354,000
8) Townhouse - 2BR, 2TB / Unit B, 3rd St., Gruar Subdivision, Cainta / LA-33.5 FA-60	850,000
9) Townhouse - 2BR, 2TB / Unit C, 3rd St., Gruar Subdivision, Cainta / LA-36 FA-60	852,000
10) Townhouse - 2BR, 2TB / Unit A, 3rd St., Gruar Subdivision, Cainta / LA-69 FA-85	1,150,000
11) Townhouse - 2BR, 2TB, w/ attic & garage / L6-A B3, 3rd St., Gruar Subdivision / LA-95	1,256,000
MUNTINLUPA	
12) Resl H & L - 2sty w/ spacious attic & 1sty school bldg. w/ garage / Lot 10C, Block 11, Alley, Lane 7, thru Caracas Street, Intercity Homes, Bgy. Cupang / LA -236 TFA-281	2,200,000
PARANAQUE	
13) Res. H & L - 2sty / L 2 B 6, CH-Woodsrow Executive Village II, Bgy. San Dionisio / LA – 50 FA - 69	663,000
LAS PIÑAS	
14) Res'l. H & L - 3BR, 2TB / L2 Venus Street Interior, Mapayapa Village, Brgy. Pulang-lupa / NLA-148 FA-102	709,000
15) Res'l. H&L - 1 sty w/ 3BR & 2TB / L5 B11, Pedro T. Sabido St., Vista Grande, BF Resort Village, Pamplona / LA –204 FA -139	1,610,000
CAVITE	
16) Res.T'house - 2sty, 2BR, 1TB / Unit 8 L8 B23, Alicante Street,Town & Country West, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite / LA – 82 FA-87.72	1,145,000
17) Residential Lot (Fairway Lots) - Lot 25 Blk 31 Orchard Residential Estate and Golf and Country Club, Barangay Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite / LA-712	2,706,000
18) Residential Lot (Fairway Lots) - Lot 27 Blk 36 Orchard Residential Estate and Golf and Country Club, Barangay Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite / LA-771	2,930,000
19) Residential Lot (Fairway Lots) - Lot 29 Blk 30 Orchard Residential Estate and Golf and Country Club, Barangay Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite / LA-1,150	4,370,000
20) Residential Lot (Non-Fairway Lot) - Lot 9 Blk 37 Orchard Residential Estate and Golf and Country Club, Barangay Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite / LA-672	2,016,000
21) Residential Lot (Non-Fairway Lot) - Lot 12 Blk 38 Orchard Residential Estate and Golf and Country Club, Barangay Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite / LA-653	1,959,000
22) Residential Lot (Non-Fairway Lot) - Lot 49 Blk 12 Orchard Residential Estate and Golf and Country Club, Barangay Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite / LA-759	2,277,000
VALENZUELA	
23) Res Thouse - 2sty, 2BR, 2TB / Unit 3 Chico St, Sunriser Compound, Bo.Parada / LA-37.7 FA-55.8	616,000
24) Res Thouse - 2sty, 2BR, 2TB / Unit 15 Chico St, Sunriser Compound, Bo.Parada / LA-29.6 FA-54.2	416,000
25) Resl Apartment - 7 Door, 2 storey / No. 1 Deato Subd., Balangkas, Bo. Bilog / LA-302	2,905,000
BULACAN	
26) Resl H & L - 1sty, 2BR, 2TB 31 Maria St., Ysmael Village, Bo. Sta. Rosa I, Marilao, Bulacan / LA-240 FA –141	1,076,000
27) H & L - 219 Cristina St., Guinhawa Subd., Malolos, Bulacan / LA-466 FA-138	1,153,000
COMMERCIAL	
MAKATI	
28) Commercial Lot / Lot 1-B & Lot 2-B, Buendia Avenue corner Marconi Street, Makati City / TLA-472	24,544,000
QUEZON CITY	
29) Comm'l Bldg. - 3 storey / 500 Quirino Highway, Bo. Bagbag, Q.C. / LA-180 FA-488	7,985,000
30) Comm'l / Res Lot - Lot 9 Arty Road corner Mindanao Avenue, Talipapa, Tandang Sora / LA-440	7,500,000
MANILA	
31) Comm'l Bldg. - 7storey w/ mezzanine / 951 Arlegui St., Quaipo, Manila / LA-406.7 FA-2,633	20,273,000
32) Office Unit, Studio type / Unit 1211 España Towers Condominium, Sampaloc / FA-22	828,000
33) Office Unit, Studio type / Unit 1212 España Towers Condominium, Sampaloc / FA-22	828,000
34) Comm'l space (Entire 2/F) / KP Tower C.M. Recto corner Juan Luna Street Binondo / FA-658	28,800,000

Please call Joy / Rosell / Eric / Diane
893-86-20, 813-04-19, 812-63-56 (DL) , 811-35-66 loc 2611-12, 2619, 2652 & 2255
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Ideogram Regulatory Board

Office of the President of the Philippines
VIDEOGRAM REGULATORY BOARD
MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2001-002

TO : ALL VIDEO EXHIBITOR
RE : REITERATION OF MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 05-89 AND 96-001

Exhibitors shall cover the following establishments engaged in the showing of cinematographic art, performance, or event in videograms or any technical variation thereof in public places for commercial purposes or in private places for monetary or promotional considerations:

1. Restaurants;
2. Pubs;
3. Karaoke Bars;
4. KTVs;
5. Buses;
6. Airplanes;
7. Ships;
8. Motels;
9. Hotels;
10. Establishment operating coin-operated karaoke machines;
11. Other similar establishments.

All establishments mentioned hereinabove are required to register the same with the **Videogram Regulatory Board** located at the **2nd Floor, CSP Building, 815 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City**, on or before 31 May 2001. Non-registration may result in the imposition of administrative and/or criminal sanctions.

For inquiries, please call telephone nos. **374-1393** and **374-0237**, or personally visit our office in the above address.

18 April 2001, Quezon City.

(Sgd.) **BGEN. MANUEL B. MARIANO, AFP (Ret.)**
Chairman/Chief Executive Officer

(PDI – Apr. 22, 2001)

dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

MAKE IT PHILIPPINES

NOTICE TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Centralized Procurement Committee-Member Agencies, this Department, invites prospective bidders to pre-qualify and bid for the renovation of Bureau of Product Standard office.

Pre-qualification forms can be secured from **Celso R. Aguilar**, Secretary, DTI-MA-CPC, General Services Division, 4th Floor Trade and Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila.

Pre-bidding Conference will be held on 26 April 2001, 2:30 PM DTI Bldg., Ground Floor, 361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS AND WAIVE ANY DEFECT THEREIN.

(Sgd.) **MARIA CRISTINA T. LAPUS**
Acting Chairman, DTI-MA-CPC

(PDI--April 22, 2001)

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(PDI - Apr. 22 & 29, 2001)

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Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya

ANNOUNCES ITS
SY 2001-2002 OPENING SCHEDULES

A. Entrance Examination and English Proficiency Test

Date: April 23-27, 2001 - First Batch
April 30 - May 4, 2001 - Second Batch
May 7 - 11, 2001 - Third Batch
May 14 - 18, 2001 - Fourth Batch

Time: 8:00 AM - Entrance Examination
1:00 PM - English Proficiency Test

B. Requirements:

1. Fees: P60.00 - ID Picture
P50.00 - Admission Fee
2. Certificate of Good Moral Character
3. Original and Photocopy of Form 138
4. Birth Certificate - Original and photocopy
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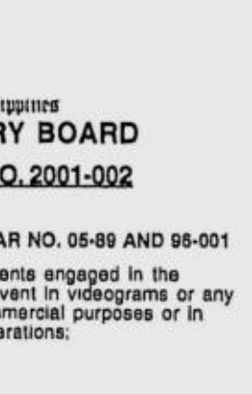

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INQUIRER RIVIA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Deadline

Q. Why is a time or date when something must be completed called a *deadline*?

A. The original deadline was literally deadly. It was a line or boundary marked out round a fence at a notorious prisoner-of-war camp in the America Civil War (1861-1865). Any prisoner who attempted to cross this line was shot on sight. By the 1920 the term was in common use as a time limit, such as a newspaper's deadline, and the penalty for crossing it was considerably less deadly.

For the Record. Only late in human history did governments come to rely on taxes for the bulk of their revenue, especially on taxes imposed equitably and with the consent of the governed. For centuries, public lands were the chief source of public revenues and taxation consisted largely of taxes on domestic consumption and customs duties on foreign trade. It was the duty of the underprivileged classes -- slaves, peasants, conquered peoples -- to support the ruling classes, whether they were the free citizens of Athens and Rome, the lords and nobles of the feudal barony, or the courtiers of King Louis XIV of France. Taxes as a badge of freedom rather than a mark of bondage are a modern phenomenon.

Ganito Sila Noon. During the Spanish Period all Filipinos, ages 19 to 60, were taxed the equivalent of P1 for the privelege of being royal subjects of Spain. The tax was payable in cash, either gold or silver, or in kind -- rice, tobacco, cloth, poultry, or whatever other form of tribute acceptable to the tax collector.

WORD WATCH

Tax (taks) : from the Latin *taxare*, "assets, appraise," which, in turn, derives from another Latin word *tangere* (as in *Noli Me Tangere*), "touch."

PDI – April 22, 2001

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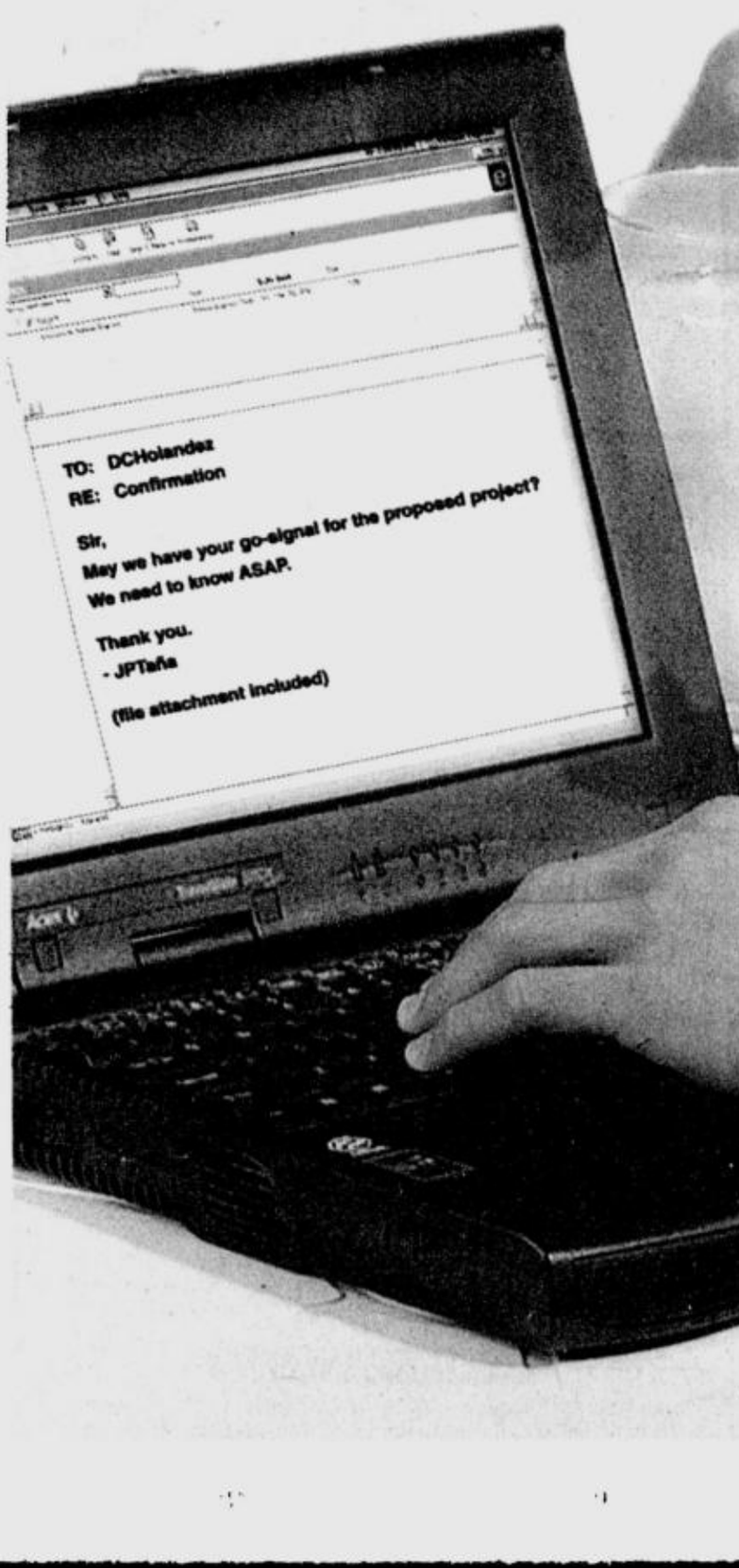
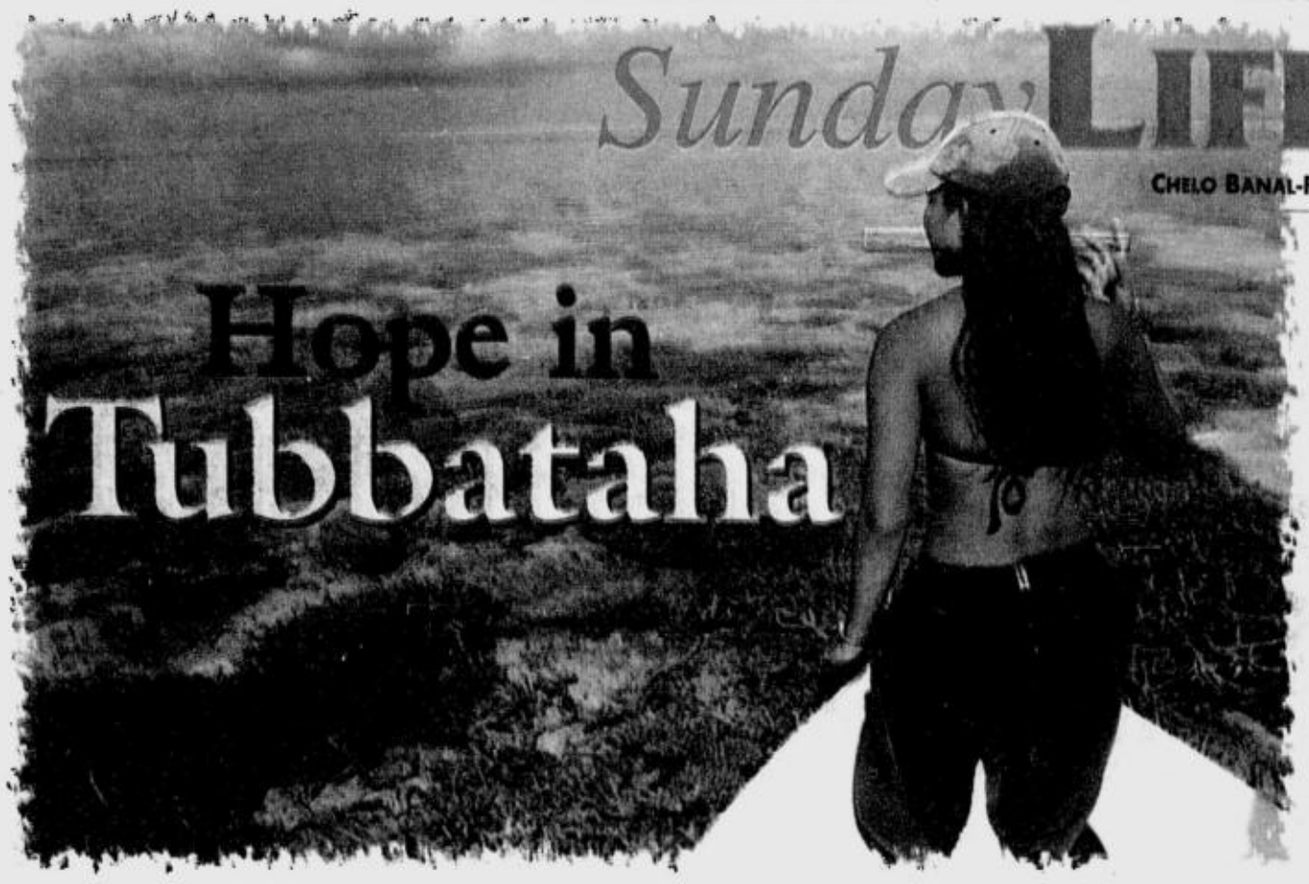


SMART GOLD

Sunday LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor
Nature



KAILA Ledesma views her acropora coral constituents in the clear waters of the lagoon.

Hope in Tubbataha

Called the Jewel of the Sulu Sea, the world-famous reef has slowly rebounded from the destruction of human predators

BY DAVE O. VALDES

I FIRST saw the shark pass about 25 ft directly below me, seemingly minding its own business as it moved slowly toward the drop-off. After several days in Tubbataha, a spectacular coral reef in the middle of the Sulu Sea, seeing a shark was no longer an unusual thing. In fact, I was averaging two shark sightings every dive! But this was different somehow. The shark suddenly corkscrewed and headed straight for me and my dive buddy, Allison.

At first I was amused that the shark actually took interest in us as most of the sharks we saw were shy. But this little ol' shark just kept coming closer... and closer. My amusement began turning into apprehension. Images were flashing through my mind... I could see INQUIRER's headlines now... "Makati executive loses leg to shark!" Tabloid fodder.

Ok, so it wasn't that big a shark. A 4-footer at the most. It wouldn't take my whole leg; maybe

HOPE/ p.C6

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AGE-OLD trees at the mini-forest park

A SOLITARY boy

Aside from education, Miriam College also has projects to motivate people to take care of the environment

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PARTY MAP OF THE PHILIPPINES

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May 25
"Search for SMB Bikini Beach Buddies" White Beach
May 26
"SMB Unplugged" White Beach
Featuring Wolfgang, Razorback, Barbie's Cradle and Cynthia Alexander

CEBU
April 21
"SMB Jamaican Nights" Cebu Beach Club, Mactan Island
Featuring Slapshock, Johnny & The Walkers and Cattsky

BORACAY
April 16 to 22
MTV's "Blazin' Bold in Boracay" Pearl of the Pacific
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April 27 and 28
"Reggae, Ska, Rave and SMB"
Club Summerplace Beach Front
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SIARGAO
May 11
"SMB Bikini Open" Kabuntud Beach Front
May 12
"SMB Reggae and Rock" Kabuntud Beach Front
Featuring The Dawn, Sandwich, Spy and Brownbeat All-Stars

DUMAGUETE
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San Miguel BEER

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

If Scholasticans are known to be highly politicized, Miriam College students are known to be at the forefront of environmentalism.

The head of the Department of Health's environmental section once said that the first lessons she learned about ecology came from her daughter, who is a student at Miriam grade school. The current breed of Miriam students is known to abhor litter. An alumnus has observed, "Look into the pockets of a Miriam student and you'll see that they're filled with bits of scrap paper." When there is no trash bin around, students have been known to keep the litter until they can be disposed of properly.

Back in the early '70s, the Maryknoll nuns, known for their progressive ideas, were already teaching environment classes. One of their alumnae, Angelina Galang, was asked to teach a module on pollution to senior college students. Now armed with a doctorate in Environmental Science, Galang is chair of the Environmental Studies/Education of the Miriam College Graduate School. Concurrently, she is executive director of the Miriam-Public Education and Awareness Campaign for the Environment (Peace) Environmental Education Center (EEC). Galang spearheads the various formal, nonformal and informal programs for the academe and the public. "We try to sow seeds that will hopefully hit fertile ground," Galang says.

Educating for the environment

The EEC is an environmental building designed by architect Bobby Mañosa, which boasts of several environmental features such as natural lighting and the use of Pinatubo tiles. Natural air flows through all rooms of the EEC. "What we have here is air continuous as opposed to air conditioning," Galang says with a chuckle. The Center houses the offices of Miriam-Peace (tel. 920-5093 or 435-9240). Its facilities include a library that houses a collection of environmental books and other audiovisual materials, a conference room and a multimedia room.

Miriam-Peace consists of a group of Miriam College faculty members and staff who are committed to the promotion of environmental awareness and concern in all sectors of society, and the motivation of the populace to take courses of action toward environmental protection. "Our main concern is education, focusing on training, curriculum development, instructional materials and research," Galang explains.

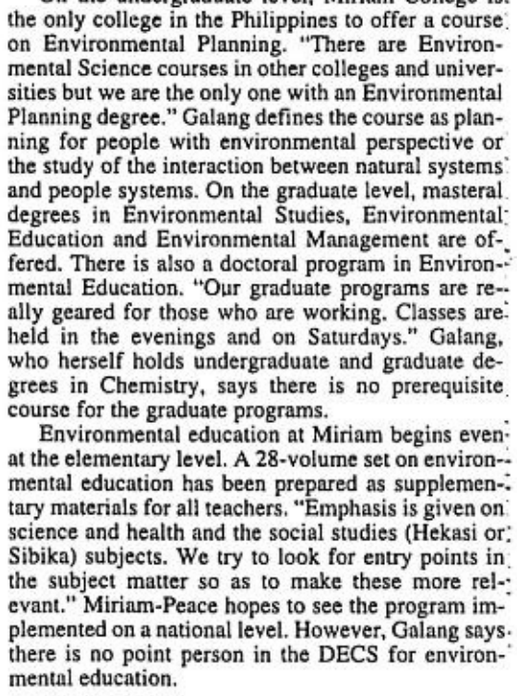
On the undergraduate level, Miriam College is the only college in the Philippines to offer a course on Environmental Planning. "There are Environmental Science courses in other colleges and universities but we are the only one with an Environmental Planning degree." Galang defines the course as planning for people with environmental perspective or the study of the interaction between natural systems and people systems. On the graduate level, masteral degrees in Environmental Studies, Environmental Education and Environmental Management are offered. There is also a doctoral program in Environmental Education. "Our graduate programs are really geared for those who are working. Classes are held in the evenings and on Saturdays." Galang, who herself holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Chemistry, says there is no prerequisite course for the graduate programs.

Environmental education at Miriam begins even at the elementary level. A 28-volume set on environmental education has been prepared as supplementary materials for all teachers. "Emphasis is given on science and health and the social studies (Hekasi or Sibika) subjects. We try to look for entry points in the subject matter so as to make these more relevant." Miriam-Peace hopes to see the program implemented on a national level. However, Galang says there is no point person in the DECS for environmental education.

Green projects

Aside from education, other projects in which Miriam-Peace is involved include a 75-hectare community-based reforestation project in Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan; a one-hour environmental radio

TEACHING/ p.C3



NATURE KEEPER. Dr. Angelina Galang

Teaching green

(From page C2)

program aired every Sunday over dwBL 1242 AM, and the conservation of Biak na Bato National Park in Bulacan where they also provide livelihood programs to nearby communities. Of the latter, Galang says it is important to give people alternative livelihood so they will not destroy nature.

Miriam-Peace also holds packaged seminars and workshops on environmental awareness for teachers, students, business institutions and other interested sectors. "As long as there is a group of 10 people, we can give a series of three one-half day seminars [on how to protect the environment] here at the Center," Galang explains. Each seminar is capped with a tree-planting activity.

The EEC sits on a 2-ha property within the Miriam College campus. Adjacent to it is the Mini-Forest Park, pet project of Maryknoll Sr. Marissa Lichauco. "The forest and the trees are called the lungs of the earth. Miriam is blessed to have this green oasis in the center of the campus," Galang says with motherly pride. Verdant trees of various species can be found throughout the mini-forest park, which occupies 1 ha of the Miriam campus. Even on a very warm day, students are certain to find a cool spot where they can rest or read.

Galang's office overlooks the fabled mini-forest park. "As far as I'm concerned, this is the best piece of real estate in the entire city," she ends with a grin.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

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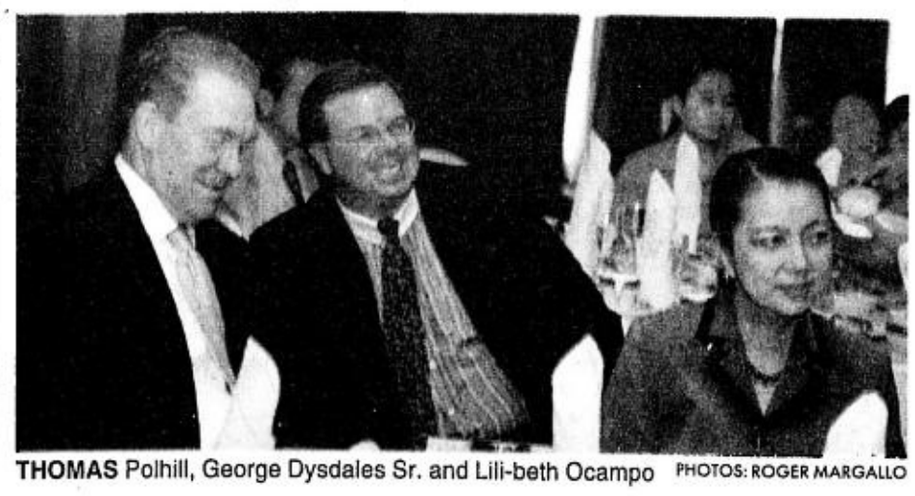
NEW home owner Erwin Calizo (left), speaks before HFHP's Bernie Liu, Erly de Guzman, Fernando Zobel de Ayala, George Dysdale Sr.



THOMAS Polhill, George Dysdales Sr. and Lili-beth Ocampo PHOTOS: ROGER MARGALLO

CARMELITA Vinson of the Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce

Making a habit of building for others

BY MARIA CRISTINA G. SANTOS

Habitat for Humanity and its volunteers have built more than 3,500 houses in various regions of the country and aim to build 2,000 more this year

"TO EACH his own" used to be an unspoken rule for 29-year-old Erwin Calizo, a carpenter and a father of four. Earning a living kept him busy and getting involved in community affairs was hardly his concern. Not until he was afflicted with the "Habititis" virus.

No, "Habititis" is not a deadly disease although it is indeed contagious. It refers to a person's voluntary act to take part in Habitat For Humanity's worthy cause of building houses for and with the impoverished families.

Along with several volunteers, Calizo has extended his carpentry skills and free time to the construction of simple but decent homes for other economically disadvantaged families. Calizo's own family, who used to live in a slum area in Parañaque, is among the 110 family beneficiaries of Habitat for Humanity Philippines project. They now live in a 24-sq m housing unit at the Moonwalk Habitat Village.

Calizo, who pays P475 a month for the house-and-lot unit rewarded to him (payable over 25 years), has completed the 400 hours of work of "sweat equity" required of him as a beneficiary of HFHP. But he vows to continue helping build "dream houses" for other slum-dwellers.

"*Ang sarap ng pakiramdam. Nakakatuwa na maraming* volunteers *ang tumulong sa amin para mabuo ang bahay namin kahit di ko naman sila kakilala,*" Calizo shares. He recalls how scared they were during typhoons when they were still living in a shanty, "*Lagi kaming nag-aalala noon na baka bumigay 'yung bahay namin o tangayin ng malakas na hangin o anurin ng baha.*"

The Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit ecumenical Christian housing ministry founded in 1976 in Georgia, USA, by Millard and Linda Fuller. The HFHP is one of the country affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International established in 1988.

To date, affiliates have built more than 3,500 houses in various regions of the country and aim to build 2,000 more houses this year.

The program "provides a way for people from all walks of life to share their time, skills and funds to help eradicate poverty housing." It solicits donations from individuals and corporations in cash or kind, such as construction materials. These donations then go to a Fund for Humanity, which is used to pay for the construction of the housing units.

Through volunteer labor and sweat equity, which ensures involvement of all the family members in the construction of their own and other families' houses, the Habitat is able to lower the construction cost.

Erlinda de Guzman, president and CEO of HFHP Foundation Inc., says a unit is estimated to cost P120,000 and, depending on the agreement, may be paid over a period of 15 years or longer at no interest. She adds that the homeowners are also required to attend workshops and seminars to inculcate discipline and positive values that will help them in developing a healthy home and community.

Multisectoral

And as HFHI celebrates its 25th year of house and community building, the Philippine chapter continues to do its share of extensive house-building activities and resource development through a series of projects that involve different sectors of the society—corporations, churches, organizations, schools and other institutions and individuals.

Print and broadcast media volunteers participated in HFHP's Media Build in Pinugay, Baras, Rizal.

Filipinos in the United States also had the chance to experience the *bayanihan* spirit, which is intrinsic and unique in Filipino culture, by raising funds to build at least 300 houses during the Fil-Am Build 2001. Chaired by former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo, this runs until December.

In May, students on vacation will get a good sweat and a perfect tan as they join Youth Build 2001. With the fitting theme "Today's Builders... Tomorrow's Leaders," it aims to boost youth participation and involvement and "make them realize that they, too, can make a difference in the lives of many."

The Youth Build, chaired by Bernie H. Liu, who is the CEO of Golden ABC Inc., which owns the garment labels Penshoppe and Oxygen, hopes to construct houses with 250 home partner families until June.

"The Habitat program aspires to bring local and international youth to work together toward a noble cause and make them become more aware of their social responsibility," Liu says.

Last year, HFHP tapped the dynamism and enthusiasm of more than 17,000 students, young professionals and individuals who built a record of 319 houses from the target of 250 houses.

Former US President Jimmy Carter, Korean President Kim Dae-Jung and former Philippine President Corazon Aquino lead the heads of various states and nations worldwide to a simultaneous build in August during the World Leaders Build.

Chaired by Fernando Zobel de Ayala, whose involvement with HFHP began with the Jimmy Carter Work Project in 1999, the World Leaders Build will likewise involve the p[articipation of CEOs and leaders from churches, the government, schools, organizations and other institutions.

"It intends to capture the energy and idealism of the youth sector and allows them to express it in a meaningful way," Zobel de Ayala says. "Building a house and interacting with the volunteers was really a beautiful and enriching experience."

In 1999, the 39th US president and his wife Rosalyn were in the country to help build about 293 homes for the squatters. Every year since 1994 the Carters have devoted one week of the year to the HFH to build houses for the homeless worldwide.

The Jimmy Carter Work Project—as the mission has come to be known—has proven that the project is indeed infectious and inspiring as it drew thousands of volunteers not only from here but from other countries as well.

THE AEGON family meets their Habitat homepartner families, the Campillos family. Alex Campillos (third from left) and Lilita Campillos (foreground) with their children. Aegon officials are Aegon Asia-Pacific regional head Cornelis Verhagen (leftmost, with child), Aegon Netherlands communications head Gerard Van Dongen (right, second row) and Aegon Phils. president and CEO Conrado dela Cruz (right, first row). With them are Las Piñas Habitat for Humanity president Jun Delarmente (fifth from left) and Habitat for Humanity Phils. president and CEO Erly de Guzman (in black blouse).

MOA signing between INQUIRER and Habitat for Humanity. From left, Celine Madamba, Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Antonio Ng, chair of the board for Humanity, and Harlene Fausto, resource development director of Habitat

AACI is taking the battle against poverty housing seriously through sponsoring two Habitat houses. (Seated) HFHP national operations director Charlie Ayco (left) and AACI president Michael Escaler (right) sign the MOA. In the background are representatives from HFHP and AACI.

HFHP FRIENDS. US Embassy charge d' affaires Michael Malinowski, HFHP board member Margie Moran-Floirendo, DPWH Secretary Gregorio Vigilar, Australian chief minister for Asian relations Denis Burke, Philconstruct 2000 overall chair Samson Lazo (slightly hidden) and PCA president Engineer Isidro Consunji

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A ride for clean air

The Tour of the Fireflies may be lightweight compared to the Marlboro Tour. But its advocacy for the environment is no mean thing

BY DOS MARIA

SUMMER in the Philippines has, for a long time, been associated with bicycle races and the ubiquitous Marlboro Tour. The grueling 2,500-km stage race all over the country evokes images of hardcore, professional, sunburnt, lean and mean cyclists.

The debut of the Tour of the Fireflies was a break in this tradition. Here was a mass bike ride, not for the elite professionals of Philippine cycling, nor for the daily bike commuters and off-road enthusiasts alone. Here was a bike ride for the rest of us—ordinary Filipinos who would occasionally bike recreationally, perhaps with the wife and kids, during the weekends, in our own communities, or places like the Quezon Memorial Circle or the UP Academic Oval.

This was a Tour aimed not at winning over somebody, but at beating something. That something was the specter of air pollution and unsafe vehicle emissions. It was a ride for clean air.

The first Tour (April 25, 1999) was participated in by around 500 cyclists at the starting line at the Quezon Memorial Circle, swelling to around 1,000 in mid-ride. The mass of cyclists meandered through eight cities in the metro: Quezon City, Marikina, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Makati, Pasay, Manila and Caloocan—a total of 50 km.

The second Tour (April 30, 2000) basically replicated the route followed by the first Tour, but featured more participants (up to a high of 2,000, again many of whom joined mid-ride), and saw the launching of the Brigade's Recycle-a-Bicycle (RIB) Project.

Tours of the Fireflies are not simple bike rides. The riders are in costumes. The more creative, the better—for which those with the best costumes are awarded prizes at ride's end. Prizes are also given to women riders, the oldest and youngest riders.

Volunteer-driven

What is perhaps most significant about these tours is that they are organized by the purely volunteer-driven Firefly Brigade. A very loose and flexible organization governs the "*parplays*"' (as the volunteers endearingly call each other) efforts. There is only a convenor and a treasurer, with the rest dividing themselves into different committees and areas of work. What has quelled the *parplays* was sheer will and dedication to something very dear to their hearts.

The Firefly Brigade actually stemmed from one woman's dream, Katti Sta. Ana (a.k.a. Jill/Queen Firefly), convenor and founder of the Brigade, and an award-winning visual artist and bicycle commuter. "It was in January 1999 that I was 'possessed' by the idea. You know how you become excited by an idea, you resolve to do something about it, but then you forget about it the next day. This was an idea, however, that refused to go away," Katti says.

Katti soon connected with the Cycling Advocates (Cycad), another bike and sustainable transport advocacy group set up by Mon Fernan. She then convinced the INQUIRER (through friend Aina Zulueta) to help in the publicity for the Tour. "Aina just called out of the blue and I told her about the idea—this grand environmental event. It didn't have a name yet. She called at a time when I was thinking

EVEN biking for clean air has its health hazards.

that I could call the INQUIRER and ask for help but was procrastinating because I was scared of the huge responsibility."

Initial plans for the Tour were grand—consisting of a Joey Ayala concert, an environmental fair, a "Big March" simultaneous with the mass bike ride. "We brainstormed. *May nag*-suggest *pa ng* hot-air balloon flying *at* regatta. *Ni hindi ko alam kung ano 'yung* regatta. But would you believe I considered the hot-air balloon idea? *Ganoon ako ka*-possessed," says Katti.

Fun ride

Mon and Katti crashed into a Mother Earth meeting when they heard that NGOs were organizing Earth Day activities. "*Naglagay kami ng* handouts *ng* idea *namin* with lots of graphics care of another *parplay*, Joanne de Leon. I remember clearly that on that very day, Mon suggested that we call the group the Firefly Brigade." The copy "When was the last time you saw fireflies" was given by Lory Tan (of Bookmark fame) when Katti told him about the grand plan. Mon then added on to it and he coined "Tour of the Fireflies" as the name for the fun ride.

The two used Cycad's funds and pulled money out of their own pockets to bankroll the first Tour while waiting for approval for a grant from the Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE).

These initial *parplay* efforts coincided with the legislative and media campaigns by other groups to have the Clean Air Act passed. Says Katti: "*Para ngang nagsabay-sabay ang* campaigns *noon*. We were organizing the first Tour when I saw the first TV ads for clean air. Shortly thereafter, I heard that the Clean Air Act was already being drafted."

In true *bayanihan* and *damayan* spirit, various groups and organizations provided behind-the-scenes support and warm bodies for the actual ride: artists from Ilustrador ng Kabataan (InK), the UP Diliman Century Riders and Cycad, the bicycle-riding traffic enforcers and police forces of the Metro Manila Development Authority and Philippine National Police.

This year, the Firefly Brigade has declared as its theme for the third Tour of the Fireflies: "Pedal Power is People Power! A Citizen's Bike Ride for Livable Cities and Good Governance."

This year's Tour aims to raise awareness about the interrelated environmental issues besetting Metro Manila and the need for good governance and public participation in resolving these issues; promote the Marikina Bikeways Project and provide hands-on experience to participants that bike-friendly cities are actually feasible, given the will and the numbers.

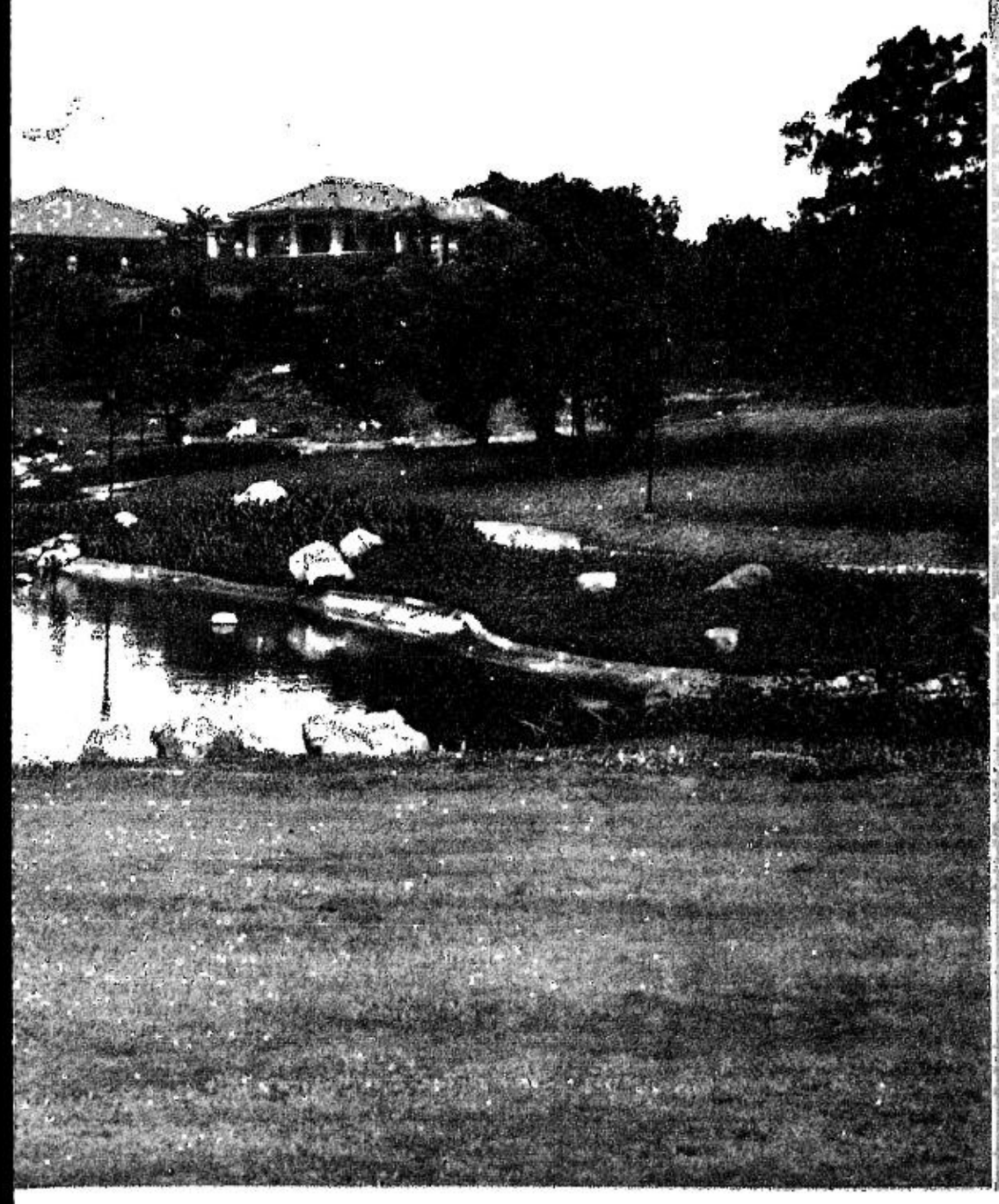
Earth Day

The Tour will take place today, Earth Day. It will start and end at the Marikina Riverbanks Center. Check-in and registration will start at 5:30 a.m. (amphitheater area) and the ride will begin at 7 a.m. True to its theme, it will pass through Malacañang, the Edsa Shrine and North Greenhills where Polk Street is.

The ride is open to all. However, children below the age of 13 years old must be accompanied by a registered adult participant. All participants, adults and kids alike, are very much encouraged to wear costumes and decorate their bikes. The Firefly Brigade has prepared cash and special prizes for the best costumed participant and best decorated bikes. Registration fee is only P50. Souvenir items can be pre-ordered. One may register at The Bike Room (Cartimar), Joven Bike Shop (Amang Rodriguez near corner Marcos Highway), Roosevelt Bike Shop (Roosevelt Avenue near corner Baler), Extreme (Timog corner Panay), Bicycle Works (Aurora Boulevard, Cubao, near Isetann), Bisikleta Atbp (JP Rizal corner Sumulong Highway near Bingo, Marikina) or at The Body Shop's Metro Manila stores.

The Tour of the Fireflies is a labor of love by everyone who wants to make our air breathable again and the quality of our lives better. On the surface, the Tour may seem to be nothing but an event for crazy, bicycle-loving people. What pedals it forward is a cause and a drive that far exceeds the energy that is required to finish 50 km. *Parplays* believe that in good time, they will see the fruits of their labor—when our cities are calmer and our air sweet again. To quote Jaime Lerner, the prime mover behind the success of the city of Curituba in Brazil—an encouraging model of a livable city: "There is a kind of syndrome of tragedy that poisons our thinking about the city. The problems are so great, people say no solution is possible. That's the mentality of defeat and an excuse for doing nothing. The fundamental thing is to begin."

Visit www.fireflybrigade.org or call 682-4304, 430-4205 or e-mail fireflybrigade@mindgate.net.



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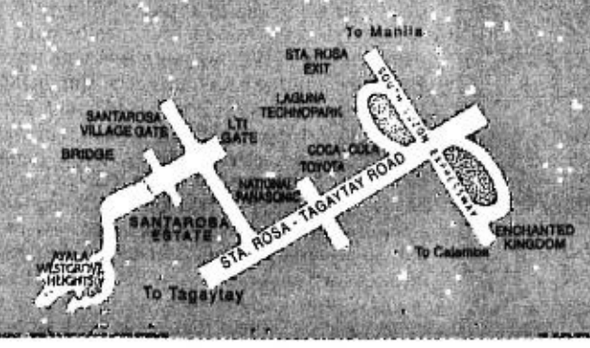

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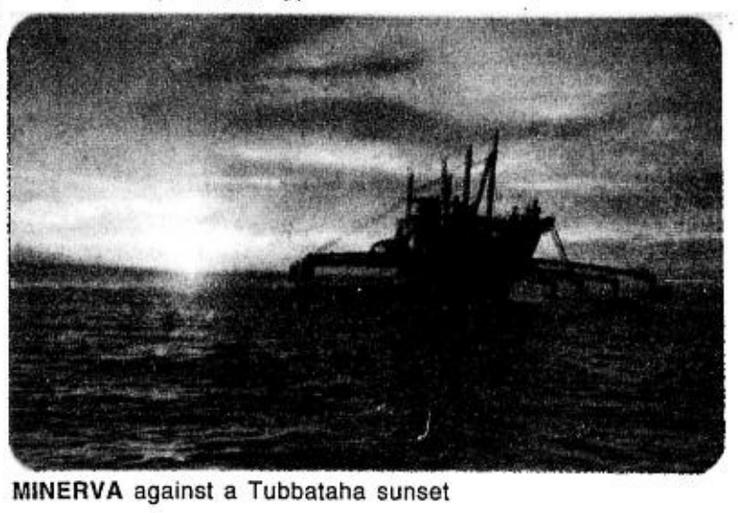
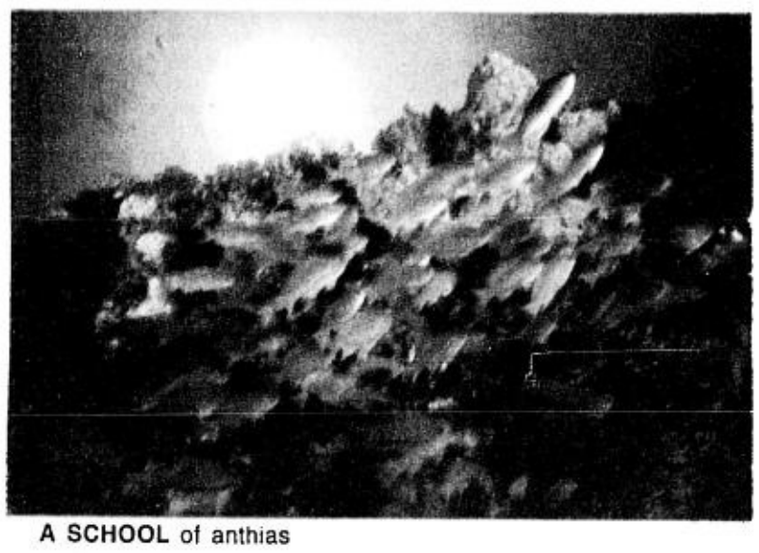
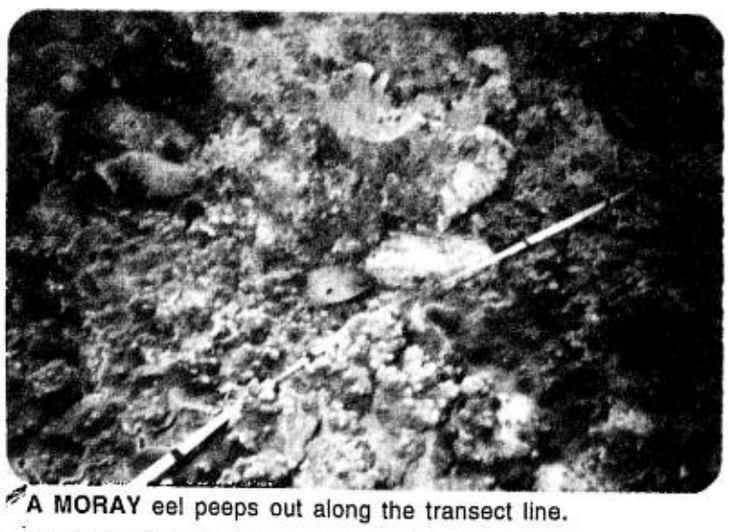
Hope in Tubbataha


MINERVA against a Tubbataha sunset

THE PEACEFULNESS of the Sulu Sea

THE RANGER station (WWF)


A SCHOOL of anthias


A MORAY eel peeps out along the transect line.

RESEARCH IN THE DEPTHS. Ledesma (left) and the author take a census of fish and corals at 35 ft below.

(From page C1)

just my foot. But try staring at a black-tip shark eye to eye with just 5 ft of water between you and those teeth, and I guess even Maximus the Gladiator would skip a beat.

The shark just stopped and stared. I was hiding behind this huge wooden slate where we were writing down research notes. Allison, brave woman, took out this itty-bitty slate pencil and pointed it at the shark as if to say, "Come any closer and you're dead meat!" The shark probably realized we wouldn't let it take my foot without a fight, so just as sudden as he came, he disappeared.

I muttered an expletive as the shark swam off. It was really more comical than anything.

I didn't know what to expect after volunteering to join a World Wildlife Fund research expedition to Tubbataha Reefs. And this was just one of the stories that the reef unfolded for us during that week-long expedition.

I guess I've always been a little masochistic. The last time I visited Tubbataha was in 1987 aboard the dive tour boat Tristar B. At that time, I took a leave from my job in Makati and worked as a dive guide. Fourteen years later, I was back under similar circumstances. This time it was to do marine research work for WWF, which has adopted Tubbataha as a major conservation project.

Jewel

Tubbataha Reef is in the middle of open sea about 100 km from Puerto Princesa, Palawan. It is a 16 km long geological and biological wonder that many divers worldwide have called, "The Jewel of the Sulu Sea." Tubbataha is composed of two atolls that rose up from the sea floor millions of years ago. The waters surrounding it are hundreds of fathoms deep. All that appears above water are two islands with thousands of bird inhabitants. Underwater, it has sheer drop-offs, schools of fish, sharks, dolphins and turtles. It is a diving paradise in every sense of the word. During the 1980s, fishermen from all over began exploiting the area. The use of dynamite and cyanide was reportedly widespread, to the chagrin of environmentalists. Even the Taiwanese had discovered the lush fishing grounds of Tubbataha and foreign fishing vessels began frequenting the area.

In 1988, Tubbataha was declared the country's first national marine park. Although the park was now officially under the government's wing, funds were sorely needed to manage and protect the park. In 1993, Unesco declared the reef a World Natural Heritage Site and NGOs scrambled to save what was left. WWF has been helping to manage the park since 1997. Today, there are park rangers living in a concrete structure built on a sand bar in the middle of the 16-km long park. Fishing in whatever form is prohibited. The two islands are off limits to visitors to protect the birds and the sea turtles that nest there. WWF has laid out anchor buoys for the dive boats. The whole program has met some success; in fact, Asiaweek Magazine adjudged Tubbataha as the best marine park in Asia for 2000. But there are still occasional park violations and it has been a long and hard struggle to maintain the park.

Being part of the media, I often thought, what's the use of drumming up awareness about our delicate ecosystem if the common Filipino can't really do much to reverse the environment's degradation? Is there really anything constructive a typical recreational diver can do to help the environment? It was with this cynical thought that I answered the call for volunteers by Dindo Mejia, WWF's project director for Tubbataha. I wanted to see for myself if people could make a difference in helping the environment.

Before going on the expedition, Dindo gathered the volunteer divers for two days of orientation and training at Punta Fuego in Batangas. We learned how to distinguish between branching, encrusting, massive and sub-massive corals. To think that before that, all I knew was "hard coral" and "soft coral." We also took our first lessons in identifying the different reef fishes.

To give you an idea of how difficult this is, note that Tubbataha has close to 400 species of fish and 300 species of coral, excluding sponges, sea grass, algae and sea mammals. There's just so much life down there. For the coral, what is important was to identify key species that are known to be "reef builders." For fish, we concentrated on those "indicator" species. Examples of indicator species are sharks. These top predators rely on small fishes that in turn rely on even tinier fishes for food. Many of these smaller fishes feed on plankton, algae and other smaller life forms. Take away the corals where some of these life forms live and this causes a major break that may affect the whole food chain right up to the sharks.

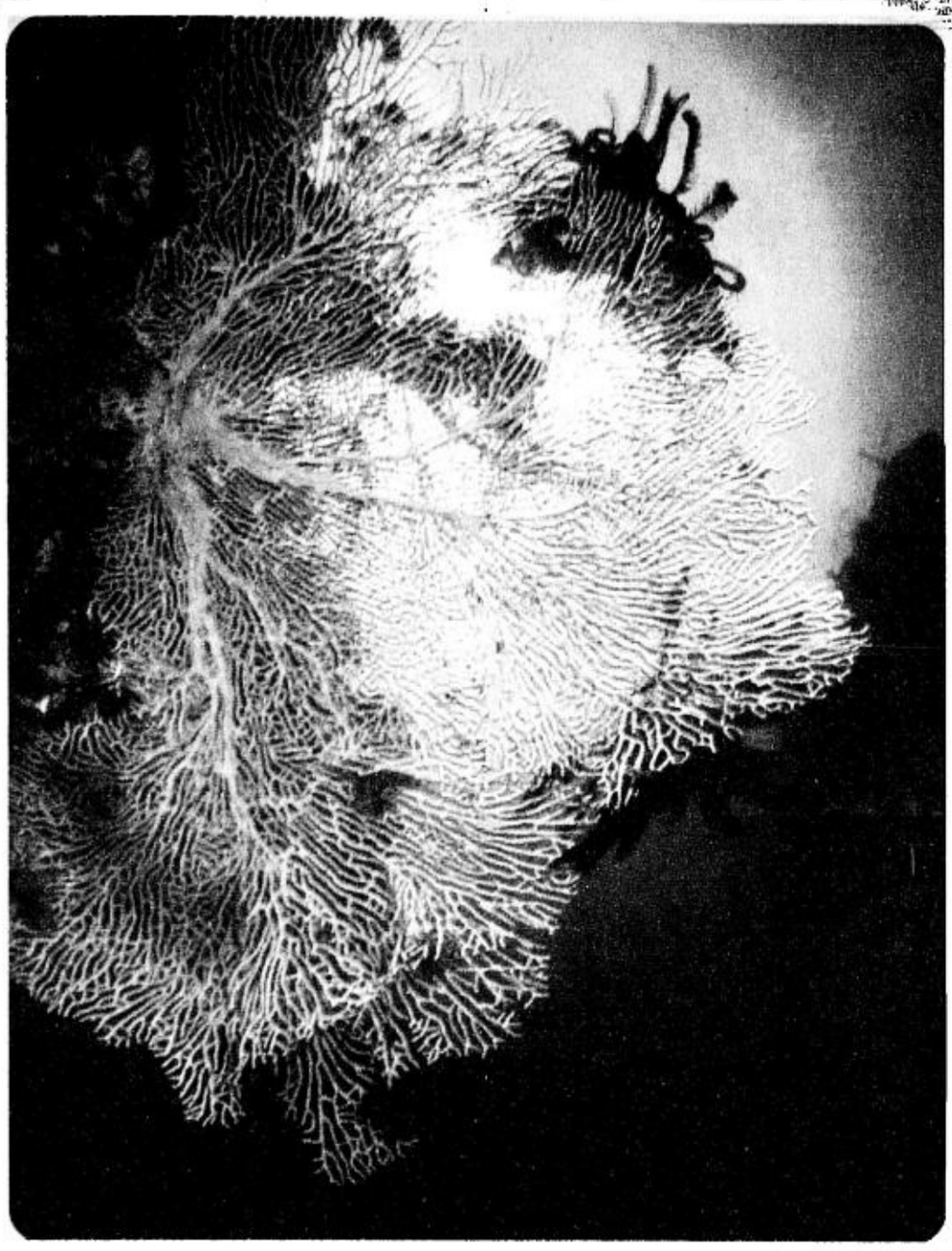
Research

I'm a business graduate for goodness' sake. What am I doing distinguishing acroporas from pocilloporas (types of coral)? And what does this information have to do with preserving Tubbataha Reef? Every year, the foundation spends millions of pesos to maintain the park. WWF needs data to prove that its efforts are bearing fruit. Research is needed to find out what conservation methods work and what don't.

Why is it so important to protect Tubbataha? Scientists believe that much of the fish in the area (Palawan and Visayas) actually depend on Tubbataha as a source of food and shelter.

The seven-day expedition began with an 11-hour boat ride from Puerto Princesa City in Palawan. WWF's research vessel is a locally built *basnig* named the Minerva. A *basnig* is essentially a giant *bangka*, complete with outriggers. But the Minerva is no ordinary *bangka*. It is loaded with a generator, a compressor (for the diving tanks), a global positioning system device (GPS), solar panels for electricity and high band radios. It even has a TV. It has two toilets, a shower, a kitchen-dining room and sleeping quarters with bunk beds. Many of us though preferred sleeping outside on the deck or on the roof for a panoramic view of the moon and stars. It was a home away from home, if you didn't mind the occasional violent rocking as the boat made its way from Puerto to Tubbataha. On the Minerva was a boat crew of about six plus eight research divers.

Tubbataha above water is just as breathtaking. As you enter the reef area in the early morning, you see a streak of light green in the distance set against the deep blue ocean. Tubbataha is like an oasis in the middle of the vast dark desert-like sea. Besides the reef and its two islands, not a single speck of land can be seen. Tom Hanks would have felt at home here.


A SEA fan along Tubbataha's vertical drop-off

A SCHOOL of jacks

The expedition staff had to search for the dive spots where permanent markers had been installed since 1997. Sometimes the research site was along a vertical wall. If you look down while floating at 35 ft, you see nothing but blue water.

WWF volunteers and staff on board the Minerva

THE STAFF working in the kitchen/dining room

Working underwater is a difficult experience especially when you see large barracudas and sharks passing by. There was a continuous temptation to just drop the work and go sightseeing. But the dedication and the professionalism of the WWF staff were infectious. The expedition leader and WWF-Palawan's research director was Kaila Ledesma, an inspiring young biology graduate and a Jennifer Lopez lookalike. Assisting us were consultants from UP's Marine Science Institute, Mags Quibilan and Rene Abesamis.

Transect

Once we found the sites, we employed different research methods to monitor the reef's conditions. We laid a 100-m long measuring tape called a "transect" along the bottom of the dive site permanently marked with concrete slabs. The fish census-takers swam along this line, counting all the fish they saw within a specific area and (get this) *estimated the weight of each specimen.* The coral guys in the meantime took note of all the corals and life forms that lay under the transect line. Coral colonies were measured and tagged for future comparisons.

Another favorite method was the "manta tow." Using snorkeling gear, we hung on to this wooden board attached to a tow rope pulled by a dinghy. Every two minutes, the boat would stop and you would write your observations of the reef's condition on the slate attached to the board. It's very much like fishing except that you're the bait. During the expedition, we did countless tows spending sometimes up to three hours in the water. In the end we felt like tea bags. It was during one of those tows that I met that mischievous shark.

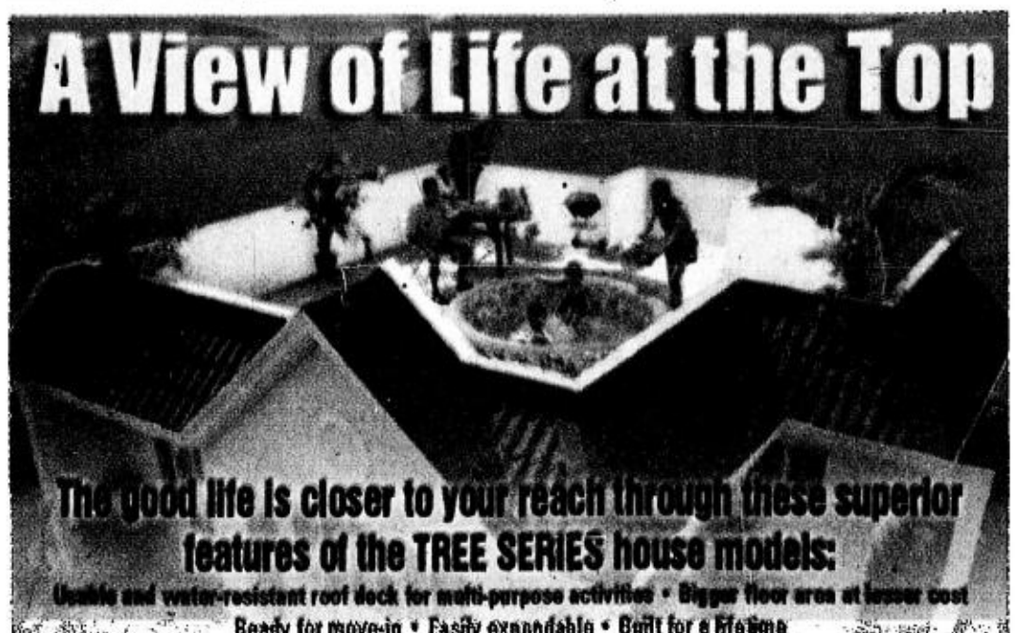
The sun was setting on the last day of the expedition as the Minerva made its way back to Puerto Princesa. I glanced back at the reef, its green shadow growing smaller and smaller as the skies around us turned orange and red. The memories of our glorious week of diving flashed through my mind. I remembered the time one of our boat tenders saw a spouting whale. During a manta tow, a large spotted eagle ray appeared out of nowhere and stopped to observe us. In one of our dives, a huge school of jacks surrounded us as we worked. We saw a sleeping shark being harassed by mischievous jacks. Turtles glided around the reef crest when we surveyed the island. Some of these turtles allowed us to come so near we could touch their carapace. I remember the time boobies (sea birds) would land on our boat not 10 ft away from where we sat. It struck me on how different wildlife behaves in this marine sanctuary. For many of these animals in Tubbataha, man is a non-threatening visitor, a part of the ecosystem. Elsewhere in this country, the animals know man only as a hunter, a dangerous predator that must be avoided at all costs.

Preservation

So I did prove to myself several things. There are many things people can still do to preserve the environment. For one thing, despite being 100 km from the nearest land, plastic trash is still a common site along the waters of Tubbataha. The next time you throw a plastic bag into the sea, remember that you could be killing a turtle that mistakes your plastic bag for a jellyfish. Another way people can help is to actually visit the park. Visitors pay a fee that helps defray the cost of managing the marine park.

The annual studies being conducted by WWF show evidence that the reef is on a rebound. Everywhere you look you see new corals growing amid the old rubble. Even the fish studies indicate modest increases in number and weight. If people would only put their hearts and minds into it, more marine parks can be created around the country in the mold of Tubbataha. I guess my biggest realization is that there is hope for Tubbataha and the rest of the environment.

A View of Life at the Top



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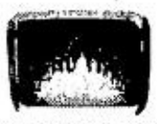

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BEAUTY WITH A HEART. Miriam Quiambao poses with several World Vision beneficiaries during the opening of the foundation's photo exhibit at the Glorietta.

Sunday **LIFESTYLE**

A vision becomes universal

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA
PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

AFTER HAVING nearly conquered the "universe" two years ago, beauty queen turned TV personality Miriam Quiambao recently conquered the heart of an impoverished 11-year-old girl living in the outskirts of Puerto Princesa, Palawan through the World Vision Development Foundation.

Miriam is equally buoyed by her new role as official endorser of the

A VISION/ p.D8

World Vision has been sending poor Filipino kids to school since the 1950s from foreign donations. Today, Filipinos like Miss Universe sensation Miriam Quiambao are giving their share to realize the 'vision'

PHOTO exhibit of past and ongoing projects

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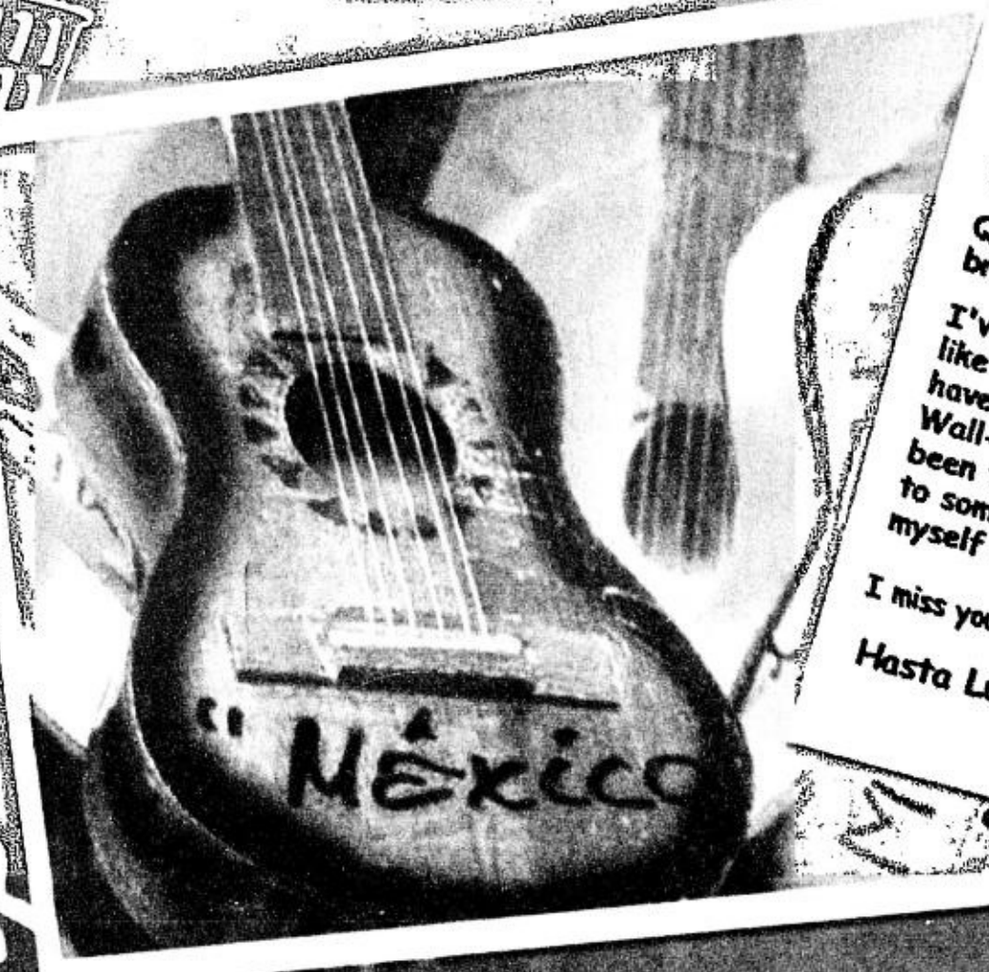
THE SCENE TEAM



Hi Everyone!

I had a blast last month in Paris with THE SCENE TEAM! The shopping, fashion shows, makeovers and romantic breeze took my breath away! You'll never guess where we are this month...MEXICO!

Que pasa mi amigos..hahaha...I'm just brushing up on mi espanol!

I've been doing some exciting things here like climbing the Alta de Pader and you have to try the Mexican Jumping Velcro Wall--it's so much fun! Of course I've been tasting the Mexican cuisine, listening to some really cool bands and even got myself a Henna Tattoo!

I miss you all, come join me here on April 23-29.

Hasta Luego Baby!

XXOXXO

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April 23 - 25	Street Dancing from The CREW of U.P.
April 26	Mayflower and Moonstar88
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Arts and drama workshop ongoing in Davao

REGISTRATION is ongoing for Davao's Teatro! arts and drama summer workshop which offers the following courses: Arts and Drama Workshop for Kids (ages 3-12 years), Teen Theater (13-19) and Teatro Sa Klasrum Workshop on Storytelling for teachers of all levels. Ongoing until May 10, the Teatro! workshops aim to develop confidence and hone skills in self-expression and creativity. Call (082) 296-2384 or visit the website at www.geocities.com/davaoteatro.

Infotext (key in the message GenTxt and send to 2333 for a complete list of GenTxt activities).

EXPO. Philtrade Exhibits will host the Food and Beverage Fair on May 6-10, 10 a.m- 8 p.m. at the Padre Faura Atrium of the Robinsons Manila. On May 19-20 is the Wedding and Debut affair to be held at Bayview Park Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Featured products are materials and souvenirs for weddings and debuts. Call 820-7879/1570.

Makati law firm marks centennial

A MAKATI-BASED law firm is celebrating its centennial this year.

The law firm of Ortega, Del Castillo, Bacorro, Odulio, Calma & Carbonell traces its beginnings to Pillsbury & Sutro, which was founded in 1901 by Oscar Sutro of San Francisco, USA. Sutro was joined by his elder brother, Alfred Sutro, and E.S. Pillsbury, both partners of the San Francisco firm of Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro.

Because of a previous requirement that the name of a partner who ceases to be with a law firm should be dropped from the firm name, its name has undergone many changes. Ross, Selph & Carrascoso and Bito, Lozada, Ortega & Castillo were the firm names for many years. All partners were Americans until 1936 when the first Filipino partner (Antonio T. Carrascoso Jr.) was admitted.

The firm's centennial celebration will be capped today by a polo game at 3:30 p.m. to be followed by cocktails at 6 p.m., both at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

The Ewald Selph Cup will be awarded to the winning team in the polo game. The Selph Cup was named after Ewald E. Selph, a former partner of the firm, and has been a traditional summer polo match at the Manila Polo Club.

After topping the bar in 1936, the late former President Diosdado Macapagal worked as an assistant attorney in the firm from 1937 to 1940 when it was known as Ross, Lawrence, Selph and Carrascoso. The late Supreme Court Chief Justice Ricardo Paras as well as the late Ambassador Amelito Mutuc, ambassador to the United States, also started their careers as assistant attorneys in the firm.

In 1999, the San Francisco firm of Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro celebrated its 125th anniversary and sent an advance congratulatory letter to Ortega, Del Castillo, Bacorro, Odulio, Calma & Carbonell.

In her letter, Mary Cranston, chair of Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro, wrote: "We have enjoyed continued dealings with your firm ever since, we recognize your role in our history, extend our gratitude and wish you continued success in the new millennium."

According to an account from the American Historical Collection, the first office of the firm was on the second floor of a building in Plaza Moraga in Old Manila.

The firm later moved to a new building at the corner of Juan Luna Street and Muelle del Banco Nacional, which housed the First National City Bank of New York. The firm was at this location for several decades until the 1960s.

In 1968, the firm moved to a newer and bigger location—the Ramon Magsaysay Center on Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

In 1980, when Makati had burgeoned and firmly established itself as the new financial and business center of the country, the firm moved from Manila to its present offices at the 5th and 6th floors, Alpap I Building, 140 L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

The present partners of the firm are Gregorio F. Ortega, Tomas O. del Castillo Jr., Benjamin T. Bacorro, Elizer A. Odulio, Renato G. Calma and Pedro M. Carbonell II. They are supported by associates and assistants, technical consultants and administrative and secretarial staff.

The firm's clientele includes local and multinational companies engaged in manufacturing, trading, shipping, aviation, banking, mass media, real estate development and charities.

It has been the legal adviser of the British embassy for more than half a century. Last year, Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom, in recognition of the firm's services, conferred upon Gregorio F. Ortega, the most senior partner of the firm, the honorary title of Member of the Order of the British Empire.

GOINGS-ON

HOMECOMING. The UP Library Science Alumni Association Inc. will hold its 51st Alumni Homecoming and General Business Meeting on May 5, 8:30 a.m-3 p.m. at the UPAA Hostel, Ramon Magsaysay Avenue, UP Diliman, QC. Call Utchie Cayabyab at 896-9801 local 241, Vicky Mercado at 521-3166 local 196 or Susie Manhit at 733-3726/3640.

RAFFLE PROMO. Robinsons' "Home Free Home" is a raffle promotion that starts April 23 and ends June 24. Every P300 single receipt from any Robinsons Mall outlet, Robinsons Department Store and Robinsons Supermarket, any one-time purchase of four Robinsons Movieworld tickets or every purchase of a Robinsons Dream Center's Dream Day ticket during the promo period will entitle shoppers to a raffle coupon.

Any of two house-and-lot units at South Square Village will be given away as grand prizes. Other prize packages include an audio/video entertainment showcase, a bedroom showcase and a kitchen showcase.

Call Bonique Vinluan at 633-9396/7641 to -90 local 175 or 176.

SPECIAL OFFER. Beginning this month, sports buffs get a 10-percent discount on all items at Toby's Sports Arena outlet in Glorietta 2. Flash your GenTxt card and you also get to practice your shooting skills with one free round at the basketball shootout area.

Get a 20-30-percent off on signature frames and sunglasses at the Executive Optical. A 20-percent discount will also be given on selected Radiance and Optical Illusions UK cosmetic colored contact lenses, as well as 10-percent off on selected Dimensions and Synergy disposable contact lenses.

Nike Stadium and Planet Sports likewise join GenTxt with 10-percent discount on regular-priced items.

In Cebu, GenTxt partygoers will party till they drop with free entrance at Club Fuel (except on special events) plus a 10-percent off on food and drinks. Globe Handyphone subscribers 18-29 years old who wish to be certified GenTxters should visit the nearest Globe Telecom Business Center, fill out the application form and submit it with a valid ID bearing your birthdate together with the necessary requirements.

Visit the GenTxt website at www.gentxt.org or through Globe

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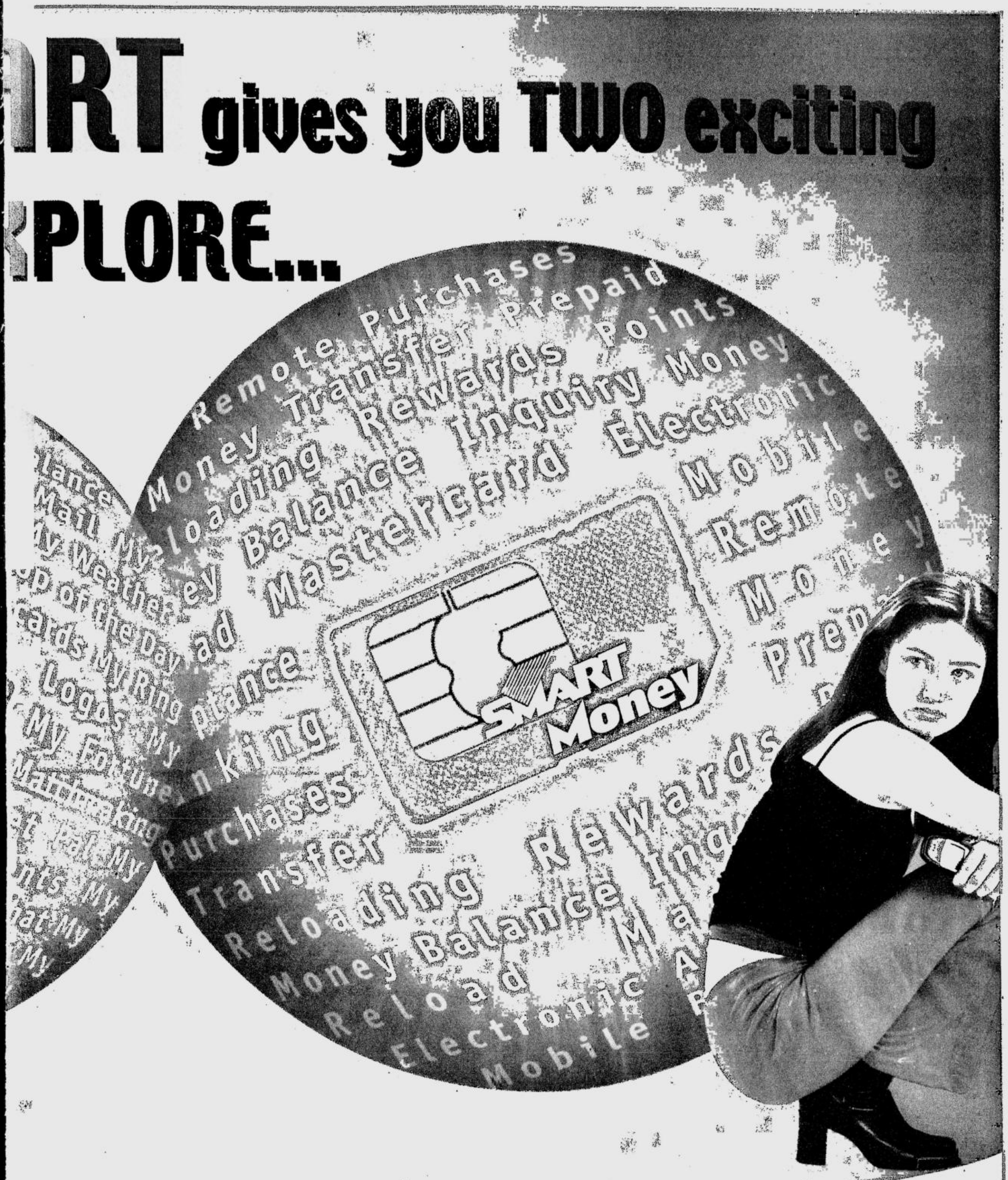

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Nestlé at the **Forefront** of Philippine Pediatric Enteral Nutrition

Special Messages

Dr Perla Santos-Ocampo
President, National Academy of Science and Technology
Past President, International Pediatric Association
Former Chancellor, University of the Philippines, Manila

Nutritional support is a vital part of the treatment of any child with chronic illness. We are all aware of the necessity of good nutritional support and its implications on growth, on alleviation of disease, on clinical recovery and on quality of life. Nutren® Junior and Peptamen® Junior are excellent supplements that are nutritionally complete, clinically appropriate and palatable. These specialized formulas provide increased nutritional support for children with various diseases and medical conditions.

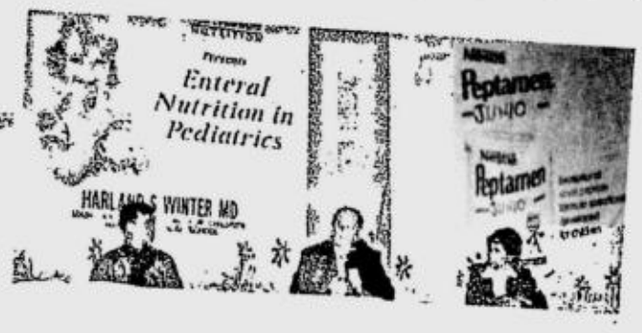
Dr Winter is an exceptional gastroenterologist, a brilliant researcher, an erudite clinician and a prolific writer. His presence here is a testament to the commitment of Nestlé Nutrition and of the pediatric community to improving childcare here in the Philippines.

Mr Gabby Consulta
Executive Vice-President and Marketing Director,
Nestlé Philippines

Nestlé, the world's largest food company, continues to meet the challenge of creating good food for people of all ages. Inspired by the classical 'seven ages of man,' Nestlé focuses on the seven periods in the lifetime of consumers by highlighting the nutritional considerations behind its product developments. Hence, every Nestlé product, however simple, is backed by solid research to guarantee that it meets all consumer needs.

Nestlé is now venturing into another field of service to the community. This venture primarily helps upgrade and strengthen the pediatric and nutrition knowledge of medical and health professionals. Our world-renowned guest, Dr Winter, is here to share with us his expertise in the field of pediatric enteral nutrition. This is another example of Nestlé's commitment to assist healthcare professionals in the delivery of care to patients by offering clinical advice, information and high-quality enteral products.

Reactions



Dr Lulu Bravo
Pediatric Infectious Disease Specialist
UP-PGH, MDH, SJDH, PCGH

In the Philippines, the nutritional index shows that about 40% of our children are malnourished and about 10% fall under the moderate to severe category. Furthermore, diarrheal diseases in our country last much longer than in developed countries; the average of diarrheal episodes per child per year is two to three times higher. We have a high incidence of tuberculosis — one of the highest in the world — and malnutrition can either be a risk factor or a consequence of this disease. Measles, dengue and other viral diseases also cause nutritional deprivation, as many children with these diseases are on restricted diets and have poor intake due to vomiting and diarrhea. To alleviate this situation, nutritional support for Filipino patients has to be improved. It must be emphasized constantly that nutrition plays a major role in the management and outcome of pediatric infectious disease.

Dr Fil Gatcheco
Pediatric Gastroenterologist
MCU, PCMC, JRRMMC

In the first quarter of 2001, I conducted a survey on the opinions and practices of selected Metro Manila pediatricians regarding enteral nutrition in infants and children. In the survey, 73% stated malnutrition as the primary reason for prescribing enteral nutrition, followed by chronic diarrhea. Enteral nutrition was also prescribed among the neurologically compromised, such as those with cerebral palsy. Intubated patients were also included, as well as premature babies, cancer patients on chemotherapy, those with acquired or congenital heart or gastrointestinal tract diseases, those who suffered multiple traumas and those afflicted with gastroesophageal reflux disease.

Open Forum

How can we make peptide-based supplements more palatable?

Supplements with hydrolyzed protein do not taste as good as formulas with intact protein. Recipes have been developed to help address this problem. Flavor packs have likewise become a popular choice for making these formulas easier to take. The key is to closely observe how your patient reacts to the different supplements. Many children will take flavored hydrolyzed formulas without much resistance, but some patients will not. In patients in whom feeding becomes difficult for reasons other than taste, the supplements can be given through a nasogastric tube or by a gastrostomy tube.

Do any clinical or laboratory parameters exist that can help determine the duration of nutritional supplementation in diarrheic patients?

I am assuming that you are referring to a child with acute diarrhea who is otherwise thriving. It takes about five days for the intestinal epithelial cells to migrate from the bottom of the intestine's lining (called the crypt) to the top of the villus. If a child recovering from diarrhea is gaining weight while on a certain supplement, one can assume the child is able to absorb the nutrients in the supplement adequately. You can continue therapy for one to two weeks after the diarrhea has stopped while you reintroduce the child's regular diet. That is the clinical guideline I use to determine how long to treat a child after an acute episode of diarrhea.

Do you recommend giving nutritional support to patients with congenital conditions but are not malnourished?

If a child is growing normally on a regular diet, there is no need for supplementation with a liquid supplement. If a child who is growing normally has specific nutrient deficiencies, these can be corrected by nutritional supplements. However, replacing the specific nutrient would also solve the problem. Patients with chronic diseases in general require more calories. Ideally, you could provide these extra calories by increasing the amount of food in their diet. However, these patients usually become malnourished as a consequence of their inability to take in enough food. Giving them liquid nutrition is a way of providing them with additional calories in a form that they can utilize. The strengths of liquid nutrition are its caloric density and its biological availability.

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Nutrition Support for Children

Harland S Winter MD
Associate Professor of Pediatric Gastroenterology
Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Sick children have special nutritional needs. Infection, recent surgical intervention, certain acquired or congenital conditions, as well as physical or emotional stress may all increase a child's metabolic requirements or decrease caloric intake. A regular diet oftentimes cannot adequately provide nourishment in these cases. The nutritional status of chronically ill children is of particular concern because of the high rate of growth failure in this population. Children with malnutrition and long-standing illnesses may have decreased food intake caused by an inflammatory or infectious condition of the gastrointestinal tract, such as esophagitis and gastritis. Some children may be unable to carry out mechanical digestive processes, such as mastication and swallowing. Pain and depression in patients with chronic disease may contribute to problems of insufficient caloric intake.

Certain conditions also contribute to increased metabolic needs in chronically ill children. Fever alone increases a child's requirements by 7% for every degree elevated from the normal temperature. Hyperthyroidism and conditions that promote the release of certain cytokines can likewise cause a child's metabolic rate to increase. Digestive and absorptive problems, as well as conditions limiting food intake, may be treated by the use of nutritional supplements in these ill children.

The challenge of enteral nutrition requires both an understanding of the dietary needs unique to sick children, as well as an ability to recognize and apply the appropriate form of nutritional supplementation necessary for their condition.

There are two basic types of enteral diets in use today: the polymeric diet and the predigested or peptide-based diet. Polymeric diets contain intact or whole protein in the form of casein, whey or soy as their nitrogen source. Energy is derived from medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs) and/or long-chain triglycerides (LCTs) and glucose polymers. These diets have low osmolality.

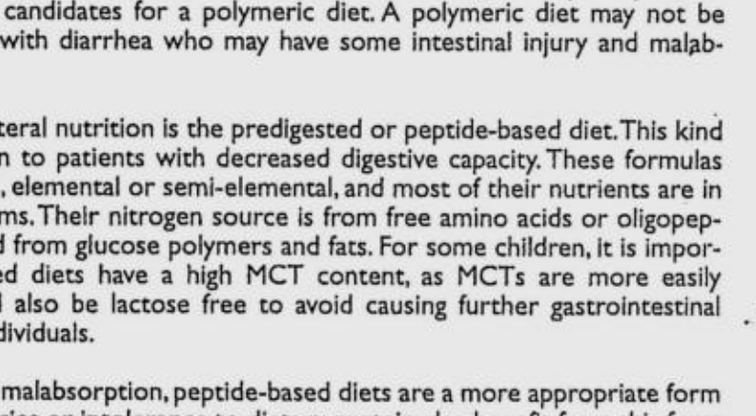
Polymeric diets are used in malnourished children with normal absorption. Children with cerebral palsy, neuromuscular delay, severe burns, trauma, and heart, liver or kidney diseases can benefit from this diet. Children recovering from postoperative procedures are also candidates for a polymeric diet. A polymeric diet may not be optimal for children with diarrhea who may have some intestinal injury and malabsorption.

The other form of enteral nutrition is the predigested or peptide-based diet. This kind of supplement is given to patients with decreased digestive capacity. These formulas are chemically defined, elemental or semi-elemental, and most of their nutrients are in readily absorbable forms. Their nitrogen source is from free amino acids or oligopeptides; energy is derived from glucose polymers and fats. For some children, it is important that peptide-based diets have a high MCT content, as MCTs are more easily absorbed. They should also be lactose free to avoid causing further gastrointestinal upset in susceptible individuals.

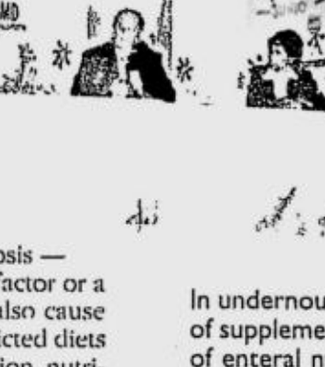
In undernourished children who suffer from malabsorption, peptide-based diets are a more appropriate form of supplementation. Children with food allergies or intolerance to dietary protein also benefit from this form of enteral nutrition. In the patient with diarrhea, brush border enzymes and peptidases may be decreased, and this impairs absorption of carbohydrates and proteins. Some conditions, like Crohn's disease (a chronic inflammatory bowel disease), may be treated with a polymeric formula and/or a peptide-based formula. Pancreatitis, cystic fibrosis and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection are other examples of diseases where absorption is often an issue and specialized formulas with predigested protein are more appropriate.

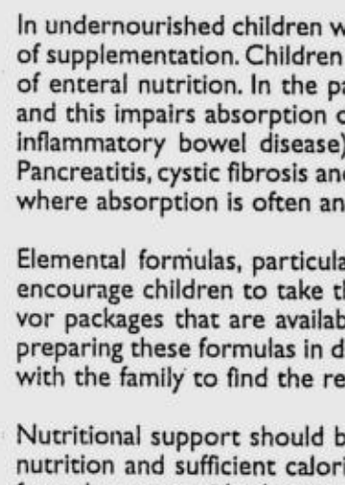
Elemental formulas, particularly amino acid-based formulas, do not taste good and it may be difficult to encourage children to take them. However, there have been encouraging results gained from the use of flavor packages that are available for specific formulas. Creative recipes have also been developed to help in preparing these formulas in different ways. No one recipe works for every patient; nutritionists need to work with the family to find the recipe that works best for their child.

Nutritional support should be part of the treatment plan for any chronically ill child. Providing appropriate nutrition and sufficient calories is a key component of caring for these children. The choice of the correct formula can provide the nutritional support needed to restore the child with a chronic illness to health.



From L to R: Mr Gabby Consulta, Dr Fil Gatcheco, Dr Lulu Bravo, Dr Harland Winter, Ms Jessica Tumao, Mr Ernesto Macenon.





Nestlé companies serve millions of people all over the world. In the Philippines, Nestlé products have been a symbol of good food and nutrition for generations. Throughout all this success, the millions of infants and children worldwide continue to be Nestlé's primary reason for being. This is the legacy of founder Henri Nestlé, whose first product launched in 1867 was Farine Lactée – a scientifically formulated milk-based infant cereal, developed to save the life of a friend's baby. Over the years, Nestlé has continued to contribute to the study of nutritional science and has put this knowledge to use on a worldwide scale through its clinical arm, Nestlé Nutrition.

In an effort to provide health professionals and consumers with the most appropriate clinical nutritional solutions and services, Nestlé Nutrition has developed two new pediatric formulas based on its impressive adult line of nutritional supplements.

Nutren® Junior is a complete and balanced diet specially formulated to meet the needs of children aged 1 to 10 who are unable to satisfy their nutrient requirements from regular food. It can be used as total or supplemental nutritional support for children who suffer from conditions that require additional caloric intake but who have normal gastrointestinal function.

Peptamen® Junior is a complete and balanced semi-elemental diet tailor-made for children aged 1 to 10, suffering from some degree of malabsorption. It is a peptide-based diet formulated to provide nutrients in an easily absorbable form. It may be used as a complete or supplemental nutritional support for children with compromised gastrointestinal function.

Nestlé
CLINICAL NUTRITION

Nestlé Clinical Nutrition

Expert view

Children are not little adults!

Patricia S. Anthony, MS, RD, CNSD
Former Nutrition Support Dietitian
The John Hopkins Hospital (Baltimore).

The medical care and nutritional needs of children are fundamentally different from the mature adult. These differences are magnified during illness when both the metabolic demands of acute or chronic disease, trauma or stress, must be met in addition to the nutritional needs for growth.

The most obvious difference between children and adults is the nutritional requirements for growth. Due to growth, calorie and protein need per kg are higher during childhood than any other time in life.

Why is nutrition important for children?

It is estimated that 30-50% of all pediatric patients admitted to a hospital are malnourished.
It is essential for health care professionals to have the skills to identify malnourished patients, and to prescribe appropriate nutrition intervention. They must also be able to properly monitor the child for tolerance and progress, making the necessary changes in the nutritional program as appropriate.

A pediatric nutrition assessment is composed of a diet and weight history, anthropometrics, lab data, and determination of nutrient needs. Although the categories assessed are similar to an adult nutrition assessment, the assessment parameters are vastly different between the adult and pediatric populations.

How can you tell if a child suffers from malnutrition?

When a child is short for his age, but weight for height is within normal limits, chronic malnutrition should be considered. When weight is depleted in relation to height, acute nutritional deprivation should be considered. Malnutrition can be due to: a) organic causes such as a disease state or medical condition (examples: prematurity, cerebral palsy, malabsorption, etc.) b) non-organic causes due to inadequate intake secondary to lack of adequate feeding assistance, poverty, etc.

Does the Golden Rule for adult tube feeding "If the gut works, use it" apply to pediatrics?

Yes, the same Golden Rule applies to Pediatrics. There are many common diagnoses that pediatrics and adults share regarding the need for enteral feeding. They include:

a) Neurological disorders such as cerebral palsy and severe mental retardation. These often interfere with the patients' ability to feed themselves and swallow, and may have increased energy requirements.
b) Failure to Thrive(FTT) or childhood undernutrition. FTT is often manifested by a difficulty in achieving proper size for age, and poor growth velocity which may be seen as weight for age, height for age and weight for height below the 5% tile on the NCHS growth charts. Conditions that can lead to FTT include coronary heart disease, cystic fibrosis, cancer, CP and GER.
c) Neuromuscular diseases, such as muscular dystrophy which often interfere with the child's ability to take oral nutrition. If a child has poor oral intake (<50% of the RDA despite nutritional supplementation AND/OR total feeding time exceeds 4 - 6 hrs/d) then enteral tube feeding should be considered. Clinicians are usually much quicker to tube feed a child than an adult due to inadequate oral intake resulting from the direct relationship between nutritional intake and growth and development.

The bottom line is to consider tube feeding when oral intake fails to meet nutritional needs or promote appropriate growth.

How does tube feeding the child differ from the adult?

Since children are NOT little adults, they cannot use the same nutritional formulas. Nutrition products specifically formulated for children provide the appropriate amount of calories and protein per volume and contain vitamin and mineral supplementation based on the pediatric RDAs.

Enteral access devices for children follow the same principles as for adults, but must be sized according to the patient thus feeding tubes for children are much smaller. They must also be quite durable since children are quite active.

What criteria should be considered in formula selection?

The formula you select for a patient depends on the patient's age and medical condition. For children ages 1 - 10 whole protein and elemental formulas are available. Both provide 1 k cal/ml and are formulated to meet the protein and micronutrient requirements of this age group.

Nutren Jr., by Nestlé is an example of a whole protein formula. Peptamen Jr., by Nestlé is an example of an elemental formula. When choosing the appropriate enteral formula, it is important to use developmental age NOT chronologic age to determine whether an infant, pediatric or adult formula is most appropriate. The medical condition should also be considered. Is there any malabsorption? Diarrhea? Have there been any recent surgeries? Has the child been on enteral feeding before? What was the tolerance? The composition of the formula will affect the child's tolerance and overall acceptance of the formula. An elemental formula may be better tolerated by a child with malabsorption or chronic diarrhea.

What is the composition of the Pediatric enteral formulas?

Most pediatric formulas are lactose free. The carbohydrate source is predominantly maltodextrins, a glucose polymer derived from corn.

The protein source may be casein, whey, soy or a combination. All products are usually gluten free. Nutren Jr. is a whey/casein protein blend, which has high biological value. The protein in Nutren Jr. is whole protein, whereas the protein in elemental products is hydrolyzed to enhance absorption. Peptamen Jr. contains peptides produced from whey protein hydrolysis. Contrary to popular belief, small peptides are absorbed more quickly and uniformly than free amino acids. It is now well accepted that 70% of protein absorption is in the form of peptides and only 30% as free amino acids.

Two types of fat commonly found in pediatric formulas are long chain triglycerides (LCT) and medium chain triglycerides (MCT). The LCT provide the essential fatty acids essential for growth & development in children. MCT are readily available sources of calories. They are rapidly absorbed via the portal system, by passing the lymphatic system and not requiring bile salts or pancreatic enzymes for digestion or absorption. They provide an easily utilizable source of calories for children with malabsorption.

Nestlé
CLINICAL NUTRITION

QUIAMBAO, through World Vision, distributes relief goods to fire victims of Barangay Pinyahan in Quezon City.

A vision becomes universal

(From page D1)

Seattle-based NGO dedicated to the holistic development of poor kids through education and the upliftment of the communities they live in.

The former Binibining Pilipinas has waived her talent fee.

Part of her job includes gracing World Vision events like the recently concluded photo exhibit at the Glorietta. The three-day affair featured heartwarming pictures of healthy and smiling beneficiaries shot mostly by Dabs Liban, one of the foundation's communications specialists.

The foundation, which has been in the Philippines since 1957, is also present in over 100 countries. Through its community-based projects, World Vision has touched the lives of nearly 71,000 children and their families living in 33 provinces and 18 cities all over the Philippines.

"I believe in their thrust of holistic development—physically, spiritually," says the dusky Miriam, who now sports a shorter hairstyle. "At the same time, I also like the importance they place on community development. Like the song goes, the children are our future and it takes an entire community to raise them properly."

CURRENT sponsor Gina Intud

While World Vision has been on the lookout for an ideal endorser to promote its ideals, Miriam has also been searching for the right NGO to endorse. Their partnership began when one of Miriam's colleagues introduced her to people behind the NGO.

Christian ideals

"We want someone to represent the foundation's Christian ideals," says Louie Baclagon, World Vision communications coordinator. "Miriam has a wholesome image and genuine concern to reach out and help other people. Of course, her media value also counts a lot."

Miriam's initial exposure to the plight of Rebecca Cabigon, a scrawny girl with a pair of soulful eyes that mirror years of sorrow and hardship, finally convinced her to lend her full support. She met her future "sister" while doing a segment on Palawan for her TV show, "Extra, Extra."

Being the eldest in a brood of four, Rebecca became the family's breadwinner soon after her father, a deep-sea fisherman, met an accident that left half of his body paralyzed. She was barely 6 years old then.

Miriam's heart melted when she learned of Rebecca's daily ordeal: rain or shine, she had to walk several kilometers to reach the Puerto Princesa market to sell plastic bags. Even on a good day, the poor girl could only manage to bring home P30. There were days when she came home empty-handed because market inspectors confiscated her goods.

Rebecca was usually up at dawn to begin her daily routine. She hardly had the time to do her homework, much less play with other kids her age. If not for World Vision's timely intervention, her mental and emotional development would have been gravely imperiled.

"Can you imagine a family of six surviving on P30?" Miriam says.

Fortunately, the place where Rebecca lives is one of the communities World Vision has targeted for development. These days, with Miriam's help, Rebecca has stopped selling her wares and begun to attend school full time.

Through World Vision, Miriam is sponsoring Rebecca's education. The P450 she and other kind souls donate monthly are pooled together to pay for the beneficiaries' uniforms, school supplies, medical and dental needs.

"You can help secure a brighter future for a child by setting aside P15 a day," say Miriam, while pointing to a can of Coke. "That is equivalent to a can of soft drink."

Empowered

Moreover, while a child is educated, his or her community is slowly empowered. A portion of the amount is set aside for various development projects, from low-cost housing, construction of multipurpose centers and artesian wells, to alternative sources of livelihood. The foundation also solicits funds from foreign donors and aid agencies.

Last year, for instance, World Vision provided land totaling 3 hectares in Indang, Cavite, to Habitat for Humanity. The NGO endorsed by former American President Jimmy Carter builds free homes to poor families all over the world.

"We work with people's organizations to determine what they need," says Liban. "We also let members of the community decide for themselves what projects would benefit them."

In touch

Unlike most foundations, World Vision enables donors and beneficiaries to keep in touch with each other and, in the process, develop a meaningful relationship. A sponsor first receives a picture folder of the child, including a photo of his or her family, a letter of introduction and background information.

They can even select the child they want to sponsor based on a series of picture folders. The idea appealed to Gina Intud, 37, who began to undergo a renewal in her Christian faith three years ago. At the same time, the account executive began sponsoring Aklan-based Ronelyn de la Cruz.

"I have yet to meet her," says the mother of two boys, "but through our regular exchange of letters and photographs, she has become the daughter I never had."

Edna, who declined to disclose her family name, was working on her papers for abroad when she passed by World Vision's photo exhibit. She was unable to resist the photo of an innocent-looking little girl staring back at her. Edna decided to sponsor her right there and then.

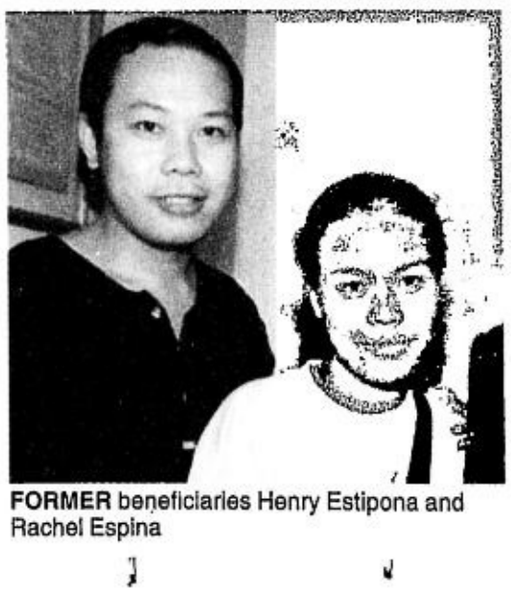
"In less than three hours," says an excited staff member, "we were able to get four walk-in sponsors."

World Vision will have its hands full as it tries to appeal to more Filipinos to share their blessings with less fortunate kids. Almost 90 percent of its funds come from foreign donors.

People behind the foundation, however, are brimming with optimism. For them, it's only a matter of time before the little ones catch the attention of future Filipino donors. The same way they have conquered the hearts of Miriam and nameless others.

Call World Vision at 927-0676 fax 921-0195 or e-mail phlnrd@wvi.org

E-mail the author at avergara@ inquirer.com.ph



FORMER beneficiaries Henry Estipona and Rachel Espina

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Barney Cheng gets an Oscar

CHENG: No more the hidden dragon of fashion

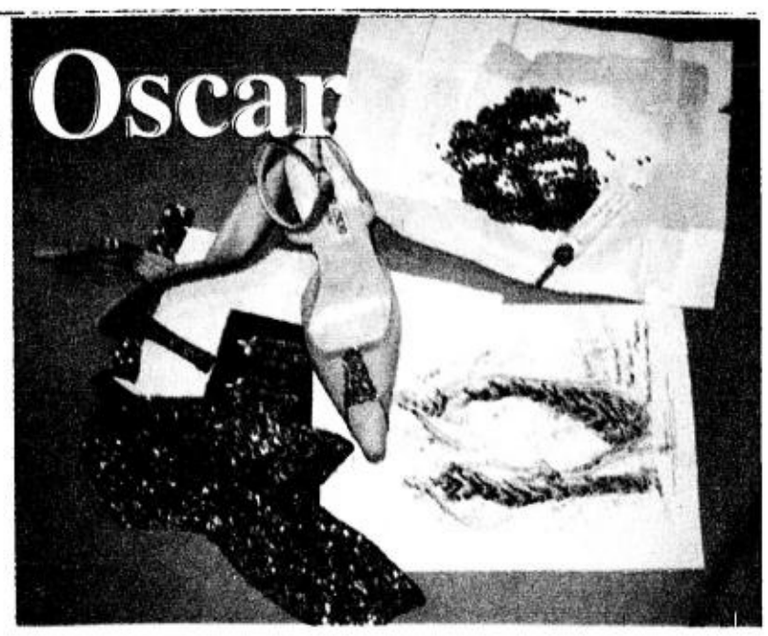
Wearing the 29-pound gown by Hong Kong's most sought-after designer, Michelle Yeoh was chosen as one of five glamor queens at the Oscars

BY KITTY GO

LAST year, Hong Kong designer Barney Cheng told Time magazine, "Instead of always reaching to America, I'm focusing more on the home base of Southeast Asia and making a name there." Less than a year later, Cheng made international news as the creator of Michelle Yeoh's glamorous cheongsam which she wore at this year's Academy Awards. In the E!Online Fashion Police poll, Yeoh ranked fourth among the most glamorous women of that evening, topping Sigourney Weaver, who came in a red gown by no less than John Galliano.

The Oscars may be Cheng's greatest public achieve-

BARNEY/ p.E3



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SET YOUR EYES FREE FROM THE LIMITS OF CABLE

Barney Cheng gets an Oscar

(From page E1)

ment but Hong Kong's most sought-after designer is not new to publicity nor success. His clothes have been featured in internationally distributed commercial and trade publications like 'e Style, US Vogue and Vanity Fair, UK Tatler, US Elle, ' me, Tokyo Fashion News, South China Morning I t and the C fornia Apparel News. Currently, Cheng's clothes h g at t exclusive Joyce boutique in Hong Ko g, Bergdorf Goodman and Barney's in New York and Barney's in Tokyo. He has also sold his line at one me or another to Bloomingdale's and Brown's in London. He exhibits in Paris every year and did a group show in New York last fall, kicking off International Day of Fashion Week.

INQUIRER took the opportunity to meet Cheng at his Hong Kong office less than a week after the Oscar Awards. The designer spoke about how his relationship with actress Yeoh started and the rapid makings of a 29-pound Oscar gown with only a three-week notice. Below are excerpts from the interview:

How does it feel to have your dress worn by a superstar at the Oscars?

The result was quite good. I was happy about it; Michelle was happy about it and it seemed like the US audience quite liked it a lot. She (Yeoh) got picked as one of the top five glamour queens of that night.

I watched the Oscars on TVB Pearl instead of E! and didn't get to see the shoes.

They were Jimmy Choo couture. *(Previous to the Oscars, Yeoh already had a relationship with the exclusive London cobbler)* I called him in London and he flew over two in nude crepe and two in black. (He) didn't know how the clothes were going to look yet, but knew only that the dress was black with crystals and that it was going to be very, very bright. To fit the requirement then, he made two pairs in black and two pairs in nude crepe. We ended up deciding on the nude because it was more elegant and simple. He (Jimmy Choo) said we could do whatever we liked and Michelle wanted them shiny so we put Swarovski crystals on the heels and toes of the shoes. So it ended up blending quite well (with the dress).

So, given only three weeks, how long did it really take to make this dress?

Well, let's just put it this way. Michelle flew to LA before the dress was made. We actually had one of the girls fly it over. The beading alone took 180 to 190 hours. That's just the beading. Everything was hand done. Because it (the gown) was heavy with everything on it, it was almost impossible to sew with a machine. So we stitched the dress by hand then had her try it. Then she left that night. There's no lining. There were only two layers of tulle, the first layer being totally encrusted in crystals, and the second layer was just put in so it wouldn't be scratchy. So it will look finished.

How many pounds do you think the dress weighed?

Twenty-nine and a half pounds.

How many people were involved?

We kept 20 beaders for her because we had to get it done in a very short time then it was flown by the lady, the owner of the (beading) shop. We had about five ladies sewing the dress together.

Exactly how did you do it?

We basically had to do a fitting then when everything was perfect, we copied the pattern (of the gown) onto the tulle, then we cut it up and had it beaded. They had to do the background first with flat beads...then add three more layers of beads for the black tiger stripes. They (the layers) add more depth to it (the design). There were so many crystals used—180,000 beads.

Who designed the Tiger pattern? *(The pattern, influenced by Tibetan rug designs, not only had a tiger but also a hidden dragon, reflecting the Oscar-nominated movie "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.")*

I did the general pattern then had my assistants finish it off. The crystals had to come from Swarovski. The Swarovksi crystals have to be ordered ahead of time and it takes something like a month or even two months to deliver. So you had New York, Austria and Hong Kong and all their wholesalers looking for beads.

How many times did you have to redo the tiger pattern?

Basically, we had three styles for her to choose from and she chose the one with the train.

Do you know of other designers who offered to do Michelle's gown?

I'm sure there were lots. I know Versace called...Lots of jewelers wanted her to wear their stuff. One even called me collect!

DETAIL of dress beading

Why didn't you fly out to dress her?

I would ha' loved to go but it was a weekend and that meant I' ave to fly back right away to prepare for my sh.

(Ch g aving his first couture show this April at the top floc of the Central Plaza. It will be an exclusive show of 3' pieces for his 200 couture clients.)

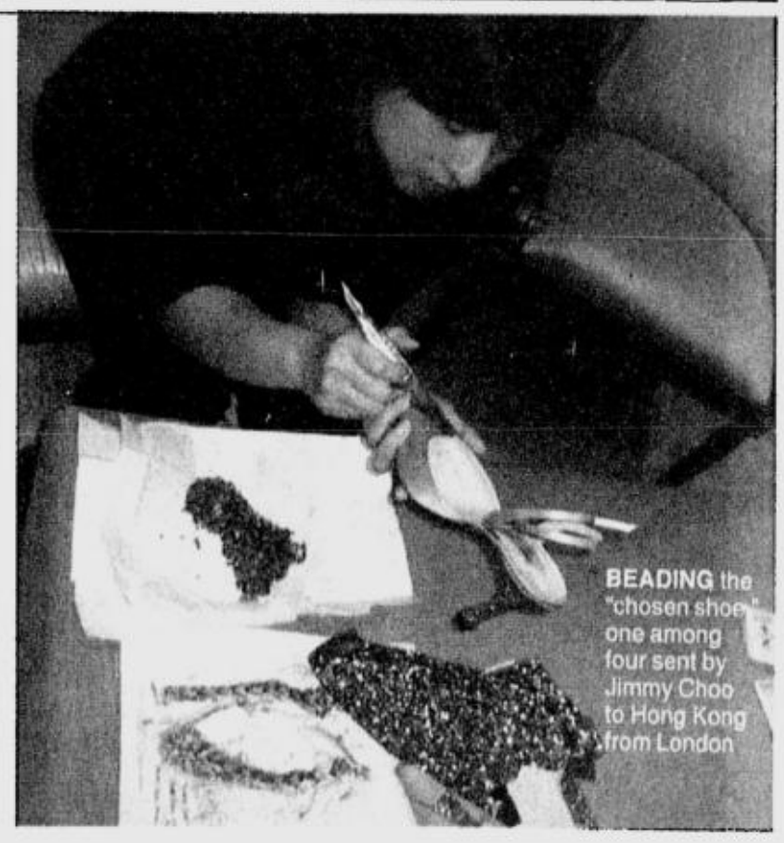
How long has Michelle Yeoh been your client?

I think it's been about four years now and we started with an outfit for the Cancer Fund Ball (in Hong Kong). She wanted something Chinese-y but with oomph so we did a corset with a Chinese collar. So that was a start. And she was really nice. Then she did James Bond ("Tomorrow Never Dies") where she was, of course, the first Asian Bond girl and she wanted an Asian designer. There was one ball scene where she meets up with Pierce Brosnan in her cheongsam. But the costume designer said it (the gown) was too shiny so they ended up using it for the poster for "Tomorrow Never Dies." And now it's in the Warner Brothers costume library.

So from then on, I did most of her gowns.

Now that you dress the queens of Hong Kong society and a Hollywood superstar, is there anyone else you would love to dress?

If I could dress Audrey Hepburn, that would be amazing because she is so gorgeous. Of course now, that would be an impossibility. In terms of publicity, Madonna would be amazing. I think I've been lucky so far because most people who come to me are fashion-oriented and I haven't had anyone so difficult that they were unbearable. There's not really one person I need to dress or I wouldn't feel fulfilled or anything like that.



BEADING the "chosen shoe" one among four sent by Jimmy Choo to Hong Kong from London

NO REASON TO CROUCH. Michelle Yeoh resplendent in her Barney Cheng gown.

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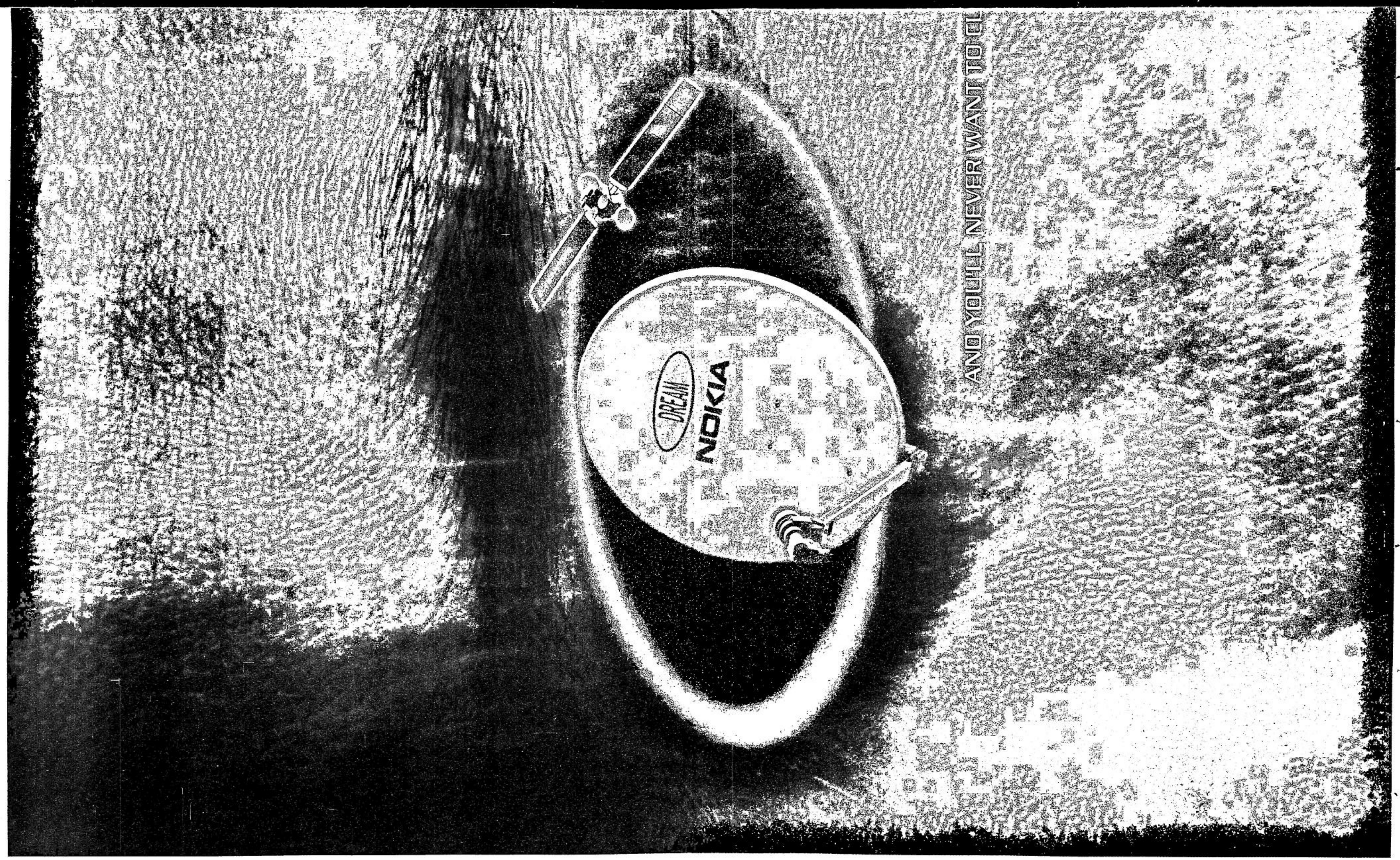
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TRAVEL

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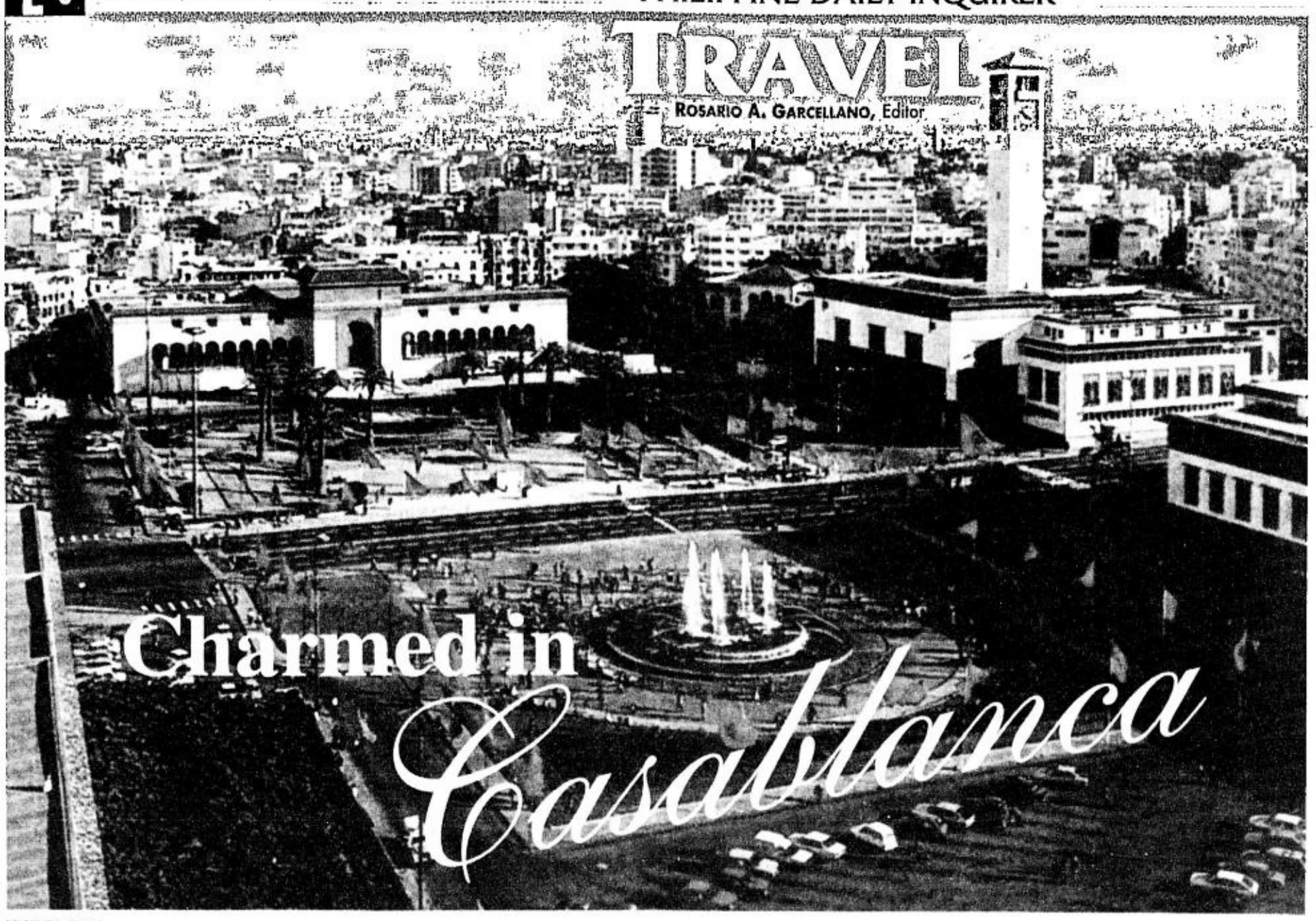


Charmed in *Casablanca*

MOROCCAN boys enjoying Philippine herbal tea

THE PLACE
Mohammed V, site of the World Exhibition of Inventions

The evening was truly exhilarating, highlighted by French wine, Arabic cuisine, and a belly dance performed by a Moroccan woman

BY JOSEF DE UBALDO

MY first trip to North Africa—Morocco, or Maroc in French, being a French colony—exuded a thousand splendors. From the Moussafir Hotel, where I stayed in July 1997, I could see the city and the slow pace of life, as well as the street hawkers offering fresh mint leaves and exotic African fruits, dates and olives. At dinner, I savored Moroccan chicken bathed in yellow ginger extracts, and a Moroccan salad that abounded with my favorite black olives in sunflower oil.

The city was safe and unpolluted. I could walk around the Place Mohammed V, Medina and adjoining areas even at noon without feeling the heat of the sun. Close by are the ports and the awesome Mohammed V mosque, acknowledged as the second largest mosque in the world. I could not imagine how such a magnificent structure was built from above the seas.

Morocco is bordered by the Mediterranean, the Atlantic Ocean, Algeria and Mauritania. Europe lies practically a stone's throw away, just across the Strait of Gibraltar.

At present the population of Morocco numbers a little more than 23 million (over 300 Filipinos live and work there). The climate ranges from temperate to warm. The government is constitutional democratic, and guarantees the plurality of the political parties, Islam is the state religion, but freedom of worship is guaranteed.

ELEGANT façade of the Mohammed V mosque

DOVES at the park

I stayed in Casablanca, the capital, where the centers of administration and commerce are proximate to each other. I was there to participate in the World Exhibition of Inventions, and displayed my Philippine herbal products, including teas and soaps.

Dinner at 11

On the first night, the organizing committee hosted dinner for the foreign delegates. Mind you, it's the custom there to start dinner at 11 p.m. and by then I was famished (although my hunger was eased somewhat by the African nuts, olives and Moroccan wines).

We were served the famous Arabic cuisine, including couscous, which consists of ground wheat, chicken, carrots, and African spices, and which reminded me of the Spanish paella. I was amazed by the layers of tablecloths, with each layer removed every time a new dish was served. I counted seven layers in all.

It was an exhilarating, wining-and-dining evening highlighted by French wine, Arabic cuisine and a belly dance performed by a Moroccan woman. It was past 2 a.m. when we got back to our hotel.

'Little Paris'

The World Exhibition of Inventions was held at the Place Mohammed V, the "Little Paris" of Casablanca.

The Philippine booth was crowded with Moroccans and foreigners alike, for they were charmed by our exotic papaya soaps, the Osaka long life tea and the Herbycin cough syrup that won the "Best Invention in Asia" award.

We served teas daily for public tasting, and we instantly became a teashop.

For 4 days, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., I was stationed at the Philippine booth. I easily made friends with exhibitors from Bulgaria, Mauritania, Germany, Macedonia and Estonia. I stood proudly when the Philippine flag was raised among the other foreign flags, especially when I won the Best Invention in Asia award, three gold medals and three silver medals.

The honorary consul of the Philippines to Morocco, Rafael Soler, was just so excited over the awards that he treated our group to dinner at the most expensive hotel in Casablanca.

I encountered members of the Berber tribe—bedouins, according to my guide, a Moroccan who spoke fluent French—at the downtown cafés and restaurants. They roamed the city selling water and playing their ethnic instruments. They made a sure-fire tourist attraction with their colorful costumes and beads.

It was a good thing I hired the Moroccan guide, who helped us immensely in entertaining visitors to the Philippine booth as well as business people, and in explaining the features of our products.

At the spa

After a hard day's work, I visited the Hamman, a health spa famous not only among Moroccans but also the Arab people, from whom the art of the massage started. ("Massage" is derived from the Arabic word "massab," meaning "to knead.")

I enjoyed the experience of a Moroccan bath, wherein a masseur scrubs practically your entire body. You are also made to undergo a 10-minute steam bath, after which you can retire to the lounging room where you can watch TV, sip an invigorating fruit drink, and otherwise relax.

The experience was truly gratifying. And having been revitalized, I was ready for more work at the Philippine booth the following day.

Old and new

A modern city, Casablanca has no outstanding historical monuments.

But outside the Place Mohammed V, one can see rows of street cafés and shops. Very close by is Medina, a haven for bargain hunters on the prowl for colorful carpets, silverware, leather products, beads, bone-inlaid home decor and antiquities.

Visitors will find it interesting to visit Medina, where the architecture of the houses and the labyrinth of lanes offer an interesting contrast with the modern part of the city.

It buzzes with activity, in particular the Rue De Commandant Provost, where an array of articles and products are sold. Crafts are well represented, and offer a permanent sampling of products from the regions of Morocco: carpets from Rabat, embroidery from Fez and Azemour, pottery from Sale and Safid, woodwork and silver from Essaouira and Tatouan, silver jewelry from Tiznit, Taroudant and Tangiers.

One can, moreover, admire the Skala and the Dar El Makhzen mosque, which was built in the 18th century, the Kouba of Sidi Ben Smara, the Marabout of Sidi Belyout and the sanctuary of Sidi El-Kairouani. It is also possible to visit the church of Buenaventure, which was built by the Spaniards in 1891.

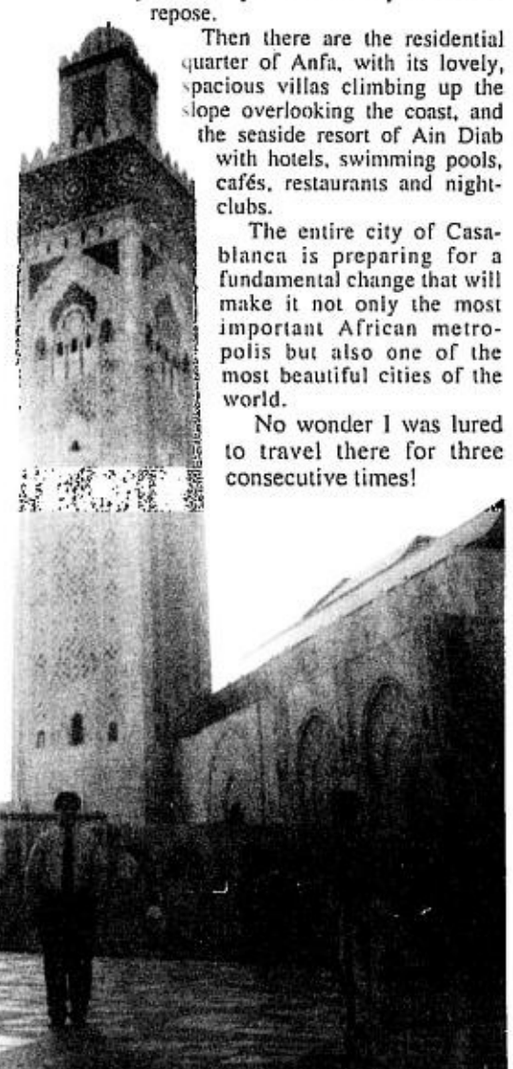
A glassed-in dome with eclectic architecture indicates Place Mohammed V, the heart of the city, where the principal roads cross. A passageway runs underground, making the flow of traffic easier. Opposite Place Mohammed V is another square famous for its musical fountain with jets of multicolored water, and the Places Des Nations Unies, the loveliest zone in Casablanca. The buildings display a rational and original style: the law courts, seat of Wilaya, dominated by a magnificent tower about 50 meters high, the main Post Office, the municipal theatre.

The Avenue Hassan II leads to the Park of the Arab League, which was constructed at the beginning of the century and now provides the city an oasis of repose.

Then there are the residential quarter of Anfa, with its lovely, spacious villas climbing up the slope overlooking the coast, and the seaside resort of Ain Diab with hotels, swimming pools, cafés, restaurants and night-clubs.

The entire city of Casablanca is preparing for a fundamental change that will make it not only the most important African metropolis but also one of the most beautiful cities of the world.

No wonder I was lured to travel there for three consecutive times!



AT THE second largest mosque in the world

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The offer is available until June 30. A peak season surcharge is applied for departures in the months of April and May.

For inquiries or reservations; call Qantas Holidays at 812-3734 or your travel agent.

New flight service

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) and Lufthansa have jointly expanded their service between Singapore and Germany.

Under the plan, the two airlines will inaugurate a new Singapore-Munich service as a code-share from the start of the summer timetable. The new service will use Lufthansa A340-300 aircraft.

SQ 2002/LH 789 leaves Singapore on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 11 p.m. and arrives in Munich at 6 a.m. on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

SQ 2001/LH 788 leaves Munich at 8:35 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and arrives in Singapore at 2:40 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

In addition, SIA will step up its B747-400 services between Singapore and Frankfurt to twice daily starting in July. SIA currently operates 11 flights a week to Frankfurt.

Pistahan @ Expo

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon was the special guest at the grand opening yesterday of the Pistahan @ Expo, a tourism and trade fair of Southern Tagalog, at the Expo Trade Hall of the Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

The two-week fair is a joint endeavor of the Departments of Tourism and of Trade and Industry, Southern Tagalog Tourism Council and Festival Supermall. A wide range of products and tourism destinations is being presented by the participating provinces—Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon, Rizal, Aurora, Palawan, Marinduque, Mindoro Oriental and Occidental, and Romblon.

On April 28, Rizal will present its "Parada ng mga Higante," which is part of the annual thanksgiving ritual conducted in Angono. The giant effigies made of papier mâché will march down the exhibit area to welcome promenaders.

On April 29, street dancers from San Pablo City will perform to highlight Laguna's Coconut Festival.

On May 5, it's the turn of Quezon to highlight its Dolores Hambujan Festival. And on May 6, the Sining Kumintang of Batangas will perform cultural dances at 3 p.m. The "Flores de Mayo" starts at 5 p.m.

Awards galore

CATHAY Pacific Airways won the Best Airline-Business Class award at the TTG Annual Travel Awards 2001 held in Singapore. This is the ninth time it was thus awarded, including during the last six consecutive years.

The TTG Annual Travel Awards recognize outstanding individuals and organizations in the Asia Pacific travel industry. Votes are cast by readers of TTG Asia and TTG China.

The airline has already won a number of awards this year: Long-haul Airline of the Year 2001 by the German magazine Capital; Best Airline Web Site at the Official Airline Guide of the Year Awards; Best Overall Airline in a survey held by Australia's Luxury Travel magazine; Best First Class Lounge in the Inflight Asia IRS Airline Quality Rankings; and one of Hong Kong's 10 best-regarded companies by the Far Eastern Economic Review.

* * *

AFTER BEING named "Best Hotel In Manila" by Euromoney magazine, Makati Shangri-La Manila earned another international citation, this time from the monthly regional trade publication Convention, Incentive Marketing (C.I.M.).

It was the only Philippine hotel, and one of only five Asian properties recognized for its outstanding meeting and convention services and facilities at the recent C.I.M. Accolade Awards in Sydney.

The recognition was conferred by C.I.M readers, who comprise top meeting, convention, exhibition and incentive planners from Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

Makati Shangri-La's sister hotel in Singapore was also one of this year's Asian honorees.

* * *

DOMESTIC shipping giant WG&A Philippines bagged two Anvil Awards from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) during the 36th Anvil Awards held at Hotel InterContinental in Makati City.

The Anvil, considered the "Oscar" of public relations in the Philippines, is the highest recognition given by the PRSP to organizations and government agencies for their PR programs.

WG&A's program involving the collection of used aluminum beverage cans—dubbed "Give a can. Give hope."—won the Award of Excellence in Public Affairs (environmental protection category).

The project is aimed at helping reduce the amount of solid wastes and, at the same time, at assisting the residents of Tahanang Walang Hagdanan in need of wheelchairs. (The aluminum is used in the production of wheelchairs.)

WG&A's "Super Garantisadong Pambata"—a medical mission for children aged up to 5 years—earned the Award of Merit.

Super Ferry passengers and indigent families in the shipping firm's ports of operation are the project's main beneficiaries.

* * *

EMIRATES has been named Airline of the Year 2001 in the largest ever global survey of airline passengers.

A total of 2.7 million votes were submitted over a period of nine months from around the world, culminating in the awards process. Conducted by Skytrax Research of the United Kingdom, the survey asked passengers to rank airlines according to the quality of the product and service provided. The other awardees were Singapore Airlines, second place; Cathay Pacific Airways, third; British Airways, fourth; and Thai Airways, fifth.

Emirates now flies to 57 destinations in 39 countries around the world from its base at the Dubai International Airport.

VIGAN CARAVAN
A vintage wedding carriage waits outside St. Paul's Cathedral in Vigan. The Kalipunan ng mga Asosasyon para sa Ikauunlad ng Vigan at Kapaligiran (KaiVigan for short) has launched the Vigan Caravan, a series of tours aimed at bringing visitors to the capital of Ilocos Sur and providing them an authentic feel of its old-world charm. For more information, call KaiVigan at 912-5618 or visit its office at the Earthlite Center, COD Department Store Bldg., Cubao, Quezon City.

AT THE CATHAY Filipiniana party: Helen Carvajal, Mark Liu, Margaret Gaisano Ang, Gwen Po, Marilou Pintor and Connie Cimafranca

MYRA Gonzalez and daughter Inma

A one-of-a-kind partnership

PINKY Baring and **Marc Pastrana** were married at elegant rites the afternoon of April 7 at the Cebu Cathedral. She is the daughter of **Florentino Baring** and **Luella Lacson Baring**; he is the son of **Manuel Pastrana** and **Norma Calderon Pastrana**, who is happiest about the union since she and Luella were schoolmates at Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion.

Msgr. **Roberto Alesna** and Fr. **Joselito Tajanlangit** were asked to officiate the nuptial Mass. Close relations and dear friends of both families figured among the principal sponsors—**Wilfrido Pastrana, Tito Escario, Romeo Torres, Luis Lacson Jr., Domingo Royeca, Rafael Sy, Antonio Tagulao,** Mesdames **Vilma Lee, Consuelo Villamor, Lina Torres, Priscilla Lacson, Marilou Chiongbian, Elena Young** and **Alma Alonso.**

Pinky's sister, **Ma. Christine Balamon**, was her matron of honor, while **John Peter Pastrana** was his brother's best man. Bridesmaids were **Carmen Millette Acolola, Cardelyne Tecson, Nina Clara Baring**; groomsmen **Ian Dominic, Allan Pastrana** and **Neil Baring**; flower girls **Ettiene Marie Baring, Nona Baring** and **Monina Pastrana**; **Jose Narciso** and **Juan Manuel Pastrana** with the rings and coins; **Hans** and **Herb Baring** with the bible and cross.

Couples formed the secondary sponsors' roster—**Ramon** and **Nimfa Pastrana** for the candle; **Carl James** and **Jessica Baring**, veil; **Christopher** and **Nerissa Baring**, cord.

The reception and dinner were held at the grand ballroom of the Cebu City Marriott Hotel, where the groom's aunt, **Loretta Calderon**, stood to welcome guests while the wedded couple and their parents posed for photos. The buffet was splendid, and among the desserts, there was a rush to get scoops of Mint-Choco ice cream specially churned out by **Joel Lee** for the occasion.

Pinky and Marc left for Hong Kong on Cathay and immediately connected to Paris where they are now for their honeymoon. It is a Cathay romance since both of them belong to the CX office staff in Cebu. They also have a joint business venture, the Moon Café, which is very popular with the yuppies for the excellent food they serve.

Toast to producers

SPEAKING of Cathay, they recently had a party to toast the top producers for cargo and travel, at the elegant hall of Laguna Garden Café. Filipiniana attire was requested and there was even a fashion parade to choose who had come in the best garb. Filipino delicacies were served, along with some spicy Indian morsels to underscore Cathay's latest new destination, Delhi.

Adrian Harley, the CX country manager for the Philippines, flew to Cebu for the occasion, as did **Marjorie Custodio** who is the assistant sales manager. From the Cebu end, presenting those trophies, citations and business-class tickets, was branch manager **Mark Liu** as Cebu sales manager **Connie Cimafranca** made the announcement.

Collecting the top cargo award was **Lolit Yu** for Oriental Air. Placing No. 1 among the travel agents was Grand Holidays, represented by its president, **Margaret Gaisano Ong**, Lahug branch manager **Marielou Pintor** and Ramos branch manager **Helen Carvajal**, whose elaborate gown made her win the Best Filipiniana.

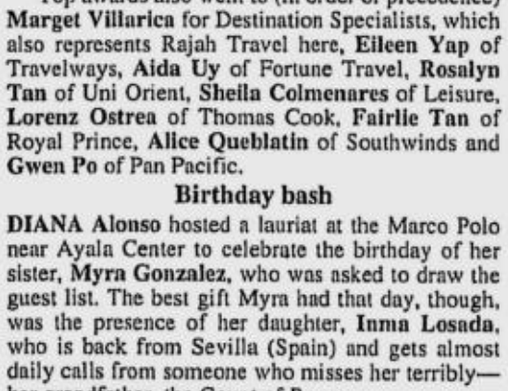
Top awards also went to (in order of precedence) **Marget Villarica** for Destination Specialists, which also represents Rajah Travel here, **Eileen Yap** of Travelways, **Aida Uy** of Fortune Travel, **Rosalyn Tan** of Uni Orient, **Sheila Colmenares** of Leisure, **Lorenz Ostrea** of Thomas Cook, **Fairlie Tan** of Royal Prince, **Alice Queblatin** of Southwinds and **Gwen Po** of Pan Pacific.

Birthday bash

DIANA Alonso hosted a lauriat at the Marco Polo near Ayala Center to celebrate the birthday of her sister, **Myra Gonzalez**, who was asked to draw the guest list. The best gift Myra had that day, though, was the presence of her daughter, **Inma Losada**, who is back from Sevilla (Spain) and gets almost daily calls from someone who misses her terribly—her grandfather, the Count of Bagnes.

Among Myra's well-wishers were her brother **Raúl Alonso**, nephews **Imanol** and **Kirsten Larrañaga**, Inma's beau **Paolo Manguerra**, cousins **Pepang Enriquez** and **Carmen del Prado**. An empty seat at the lauriat was reserved for another cousin, **Minnie Osmeña**, scheduled to arrive anytime that evening.

Also at the Marco Polo was the birthday celebration of **Joe Suaco**, whose wife **Lynn Cañizares Suaco** had gathered an intimate group of friends who usually celebrate each other's birthday. Present: **Eddie Dakay, Jimmy** and **Chona Mercado, Ralph** and **Ellen Zuluaga, Joe** and **Ching Utzurrum, Terry Manguerra** and her sister **Tina Escaño Unchuan**



PINKY and Marc Pastrana

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

who is a May girl and has the group's birthday committee plotting where her celebration will be.

Lenten exhibit

EASTER has come, and people in Cebu are still talking about the stunning Lenten exhibit, "Passus," held at the Ayala Center. It featured statues, images and icons actually used in various parishes around Cebu during the Lent services, and processions. Guest of honor at the opening was His Eminence **Ricardo Cardinal Vidal**, who congratulated the Angel Society of Cebu president, lawyer **Nicetas Ybañez**, for putting up the exposition.

They did it with the aid of Msgr. **Itti Materlo** and Msgr. **Cris Garcia** who challenged the "Angels" to make next year's exhibit even bigger. Nicetas accepted the challenge and echoing her were those who were present: **Baby Raya, Linda To, Celia Aliz, Esmeralda So, Ester Monteclaro, Becky Rallos, Angie Ylaya, Rowena Mayol, Heidi Antolihao** and everyone else in the roster of members.

THE OPENING of "Passus," with Nicetas Ybañez, Msgr. Cris Garcia, Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Esmeralda So

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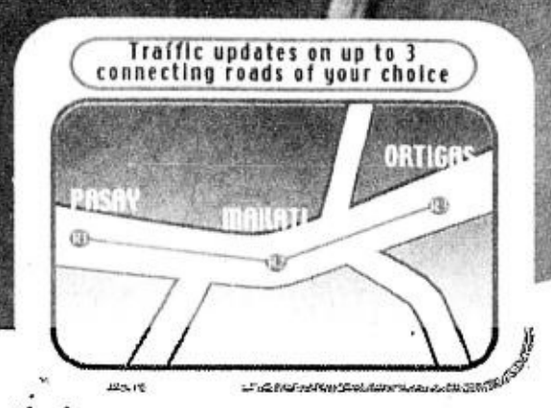

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1114, Series of 2001.

ARANETA-LARRAZABAL

A fabulous wedding planned by Mom

Santi and Maite would have exchanged vows in the dark and their guests would have suffered in the heat if not for Connie Araneta's foresight and resourcefulness

THE BRIDAL car is a 1923 Rolls Royce owned by Ramon Torres

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

WHAT is style? Most young writers naively define it as an elevated sensibility in dressing up and in decorating. For others, it's the expression of character, a way of changing the ordinary into the sublime. It could also be uniqueness, esprit and courage.

GREEN antique jar, filled with amaryllis, cymbidiums, dutch tulips, gerberas, eustonias and foliage, serves as a centerpiece.

Connie Araneta, wife of LBC chair Carlos, exemplifies the definition of style. Perhaps it is her discretion or her being low-key that heightens her style.

In her circle, Connie has been known to be a hostess with flair. When it comes to planning her sons' weddings, she has embodied discipline, resourcefulness and originality that define style.

Last year, she organized the wedding of her eldest son and LBC president, Juan Carlos. It is best remembered for the horse-drawn, antique carriage that brought the couple from the church to the reception. The Araneta garden was a sensory experience, replete with scents, tulips, spotlights, good food and fabulous guests.

Last April 6, the wedding of her second son, Santiago, to Marie Therese "Maite" de Larrazabal was just as memorable. Santi is vice president for treasury of LBC. It was the day of the Luzon-wide blackout and the wedding reception was going to be held in their garden in Makati. Connie was unruffled. Beforehand, she knew that with the prodigious lighting in her garden, additional generator sets were required to meet the power load. She even provided additional generators for the wedding in Santuario de San Antonio.

CARABAO jar with red roses, hypericum berries, cymbidiums and gerberas and floor candles

For some society women, the power failure was an inconvenience since very few salons could provide blow-drying services and makeup was done in improper lighting conditions. Nonetheless, the guests turned up, dressed to the nines.

Foresight helps

When Santi, 29, announced his engagement to Maite who works for Casa Asiana, a furniture and

MOM/ p.F6

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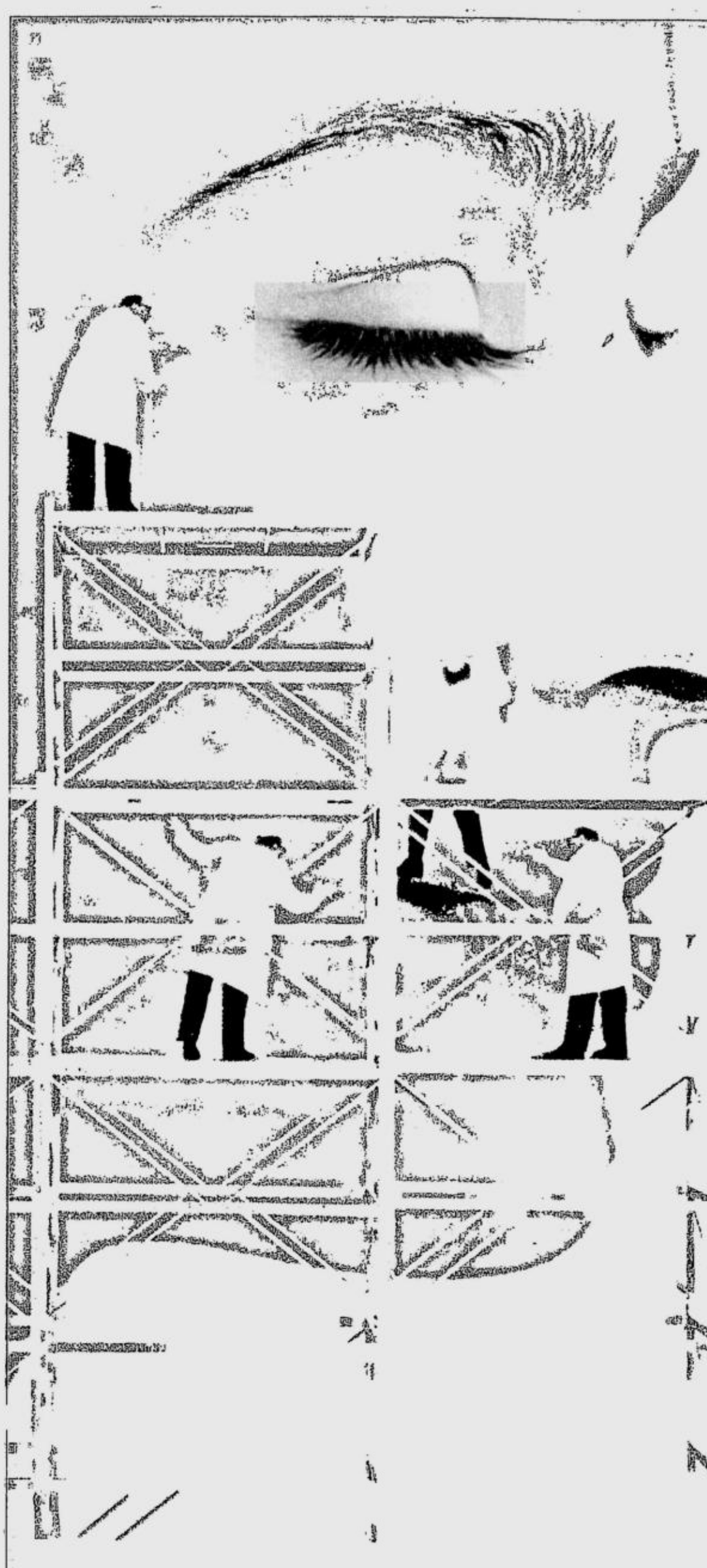

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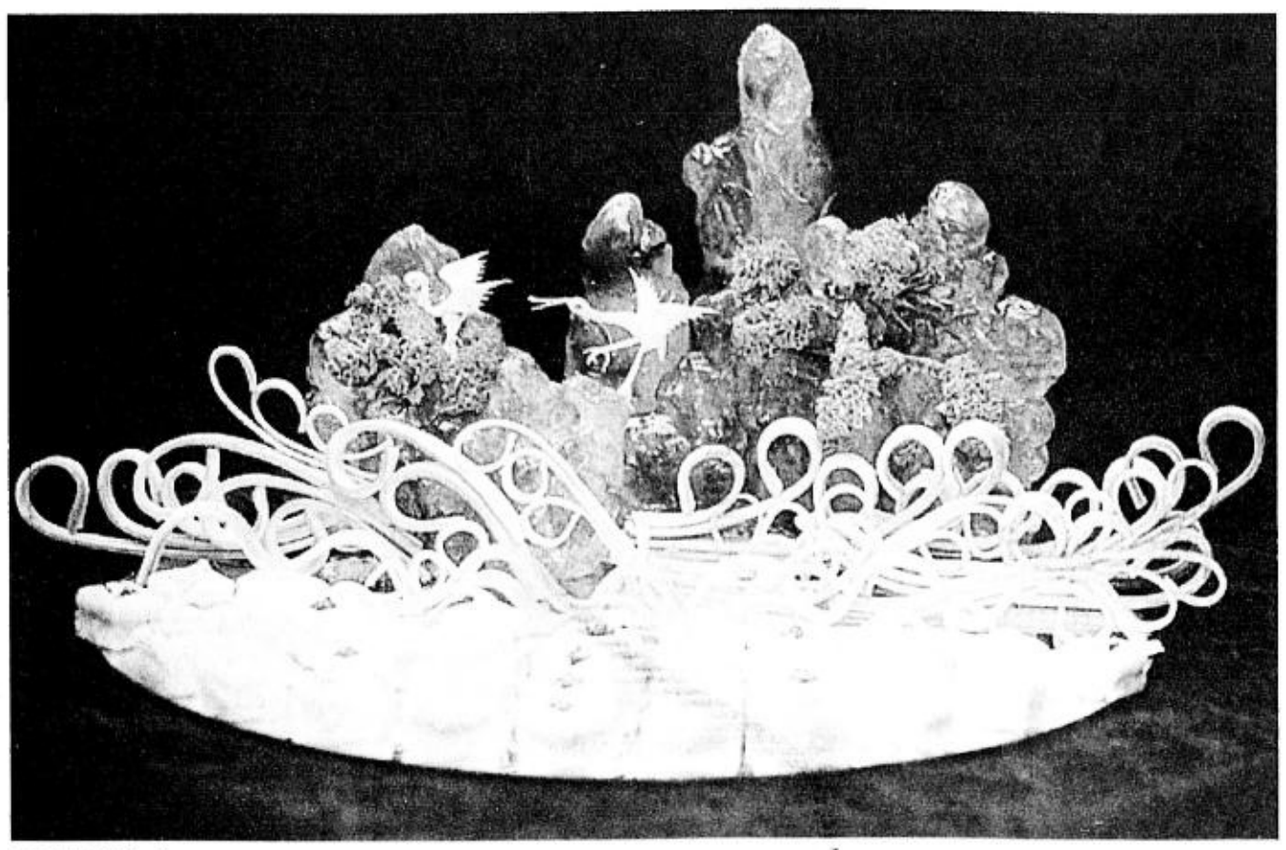


MOUNTAIN of sugar on a mirror surrounded by dainty petit-fours desserts

A 5-FT-TALL cake in bright purple, red and yellow, with a dragon snaking around the masterpiece.

Nuptial cakes go Oriental

(From page F8)

As wedding cakes look east, Pastry Bin finds its hands full

single cakes shaped like gold bars that were given away to principal sponsors.

"We've been trying to mix Oriental with Western influences and adding a modern twist to the interpretation of cakes," Penk says of their latest endeavors.

Herself a Tsinoy by lineage, she says this renewed consciousness only started after her trip to Beijing in 1999.

"I never realized how great the Chinese culture was until I saw the Great Wall," she recalls. "Everything was just so awesome and rich—literally and figuratively. I saw antiques in the museums and I can just imagine the kind of luxuriousness they enjoyed a thousand years ago. For them, nothing was impossible."

So inspired was she that when the late geomancer Paul Lau commissioned them to make a birthday cake for his Forbidden City-inspired party, Penk dug out her old books on the theme and created a five-layered masterpiece with a fondant version of the Imperial Palace.

Aside from the main hall, the cake also featured miniature steps and details like nine dragons frosted on the Emperor's walkway. There were gold pots and jars, and miniature moats with glucose glaze and colored streaks to achieve a water effect.

Sugar dragon

Meanwhile, she did the Chinese New Year cake for Mandarin Oriental Manila last year with a dragon coiled around a sugar mountain, with its tail shaped into 2000.

"When I was in China, I watched out for little details that people don't often bother with—intricate designs of murals, and the walls of the museums," she says. "I also tried to recall my grandparents' stories, and my memories of watching Chinese theater performers on the streets of Chinatown, never realizing that one day I'd be using all that as design inspiration."

Interestingly, Penk says her great-grandfather was actually a well-known silversmith in the seaside province of Fujian in China.

While she does Chinese-themed cakes most often, clients have also asked her to explore other Asian themes as well. During the Centennial year, for example, a glossy magazine hired the duo to create a Centennial-theme cake. They came up with a Muslim-inspired cake with a bright red *salakot* on a blue and red base, typical colors of locally woven fabrics from the South.

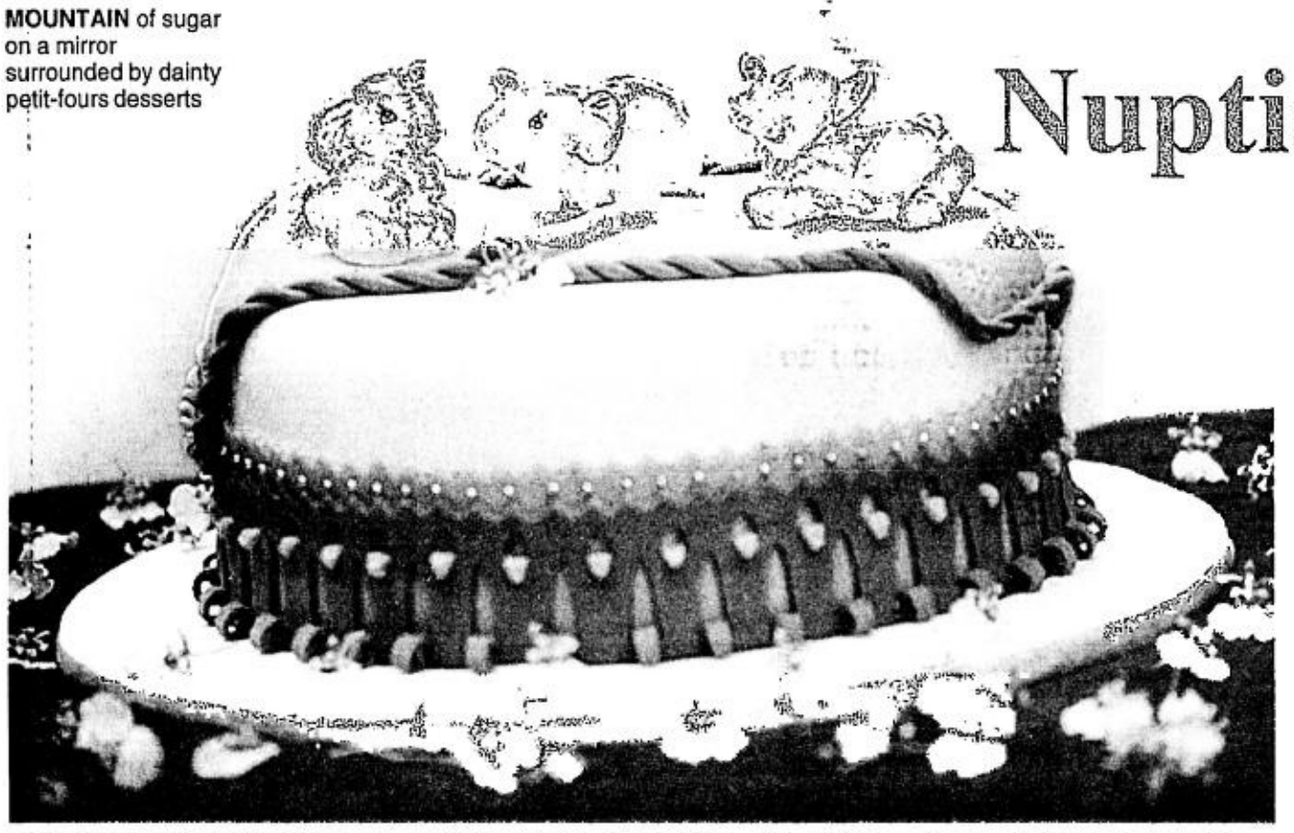
On another occasion, Penk harked back to the dainty lace designs of yore, created a two-tiered porcelain cake with lace detail, and wrapped the edges in multistrand pearl chokers. Capping the delicate design was a Tiffany-like transparent sugar *capiz* lantern that swung on top of the cake.

Vietnamese theme

This month, she is creating a Vietnamese-themed wedding cake with bamboo and dragon details for a Vietnamese-American couple. A Filipina getting married to an Indian tracked Pastry Bin down on the Internet and commissioned them to create an Indian-themed cake. Penk says that the Taj Mahal will be the design base, and the cake will be in vibrant shades of red, orange and gold with tapestry details.

For this pictorial for the INQUIRER, Penk decided to go Thai and created a cake in bright orange and lavender with cutout details, gold moldings and sugar elephants molded after actual ceramic figurines. Miniature fans in brightest pastel shades, meanwhile, dot the half-moon, Japanese-themed cake. Another novelty is sugar mountains on a mirror setup surrounded by dainty petit-fours desserts—perfect proof, she says, that occasion cakes need not be limited to whole cakes alone.

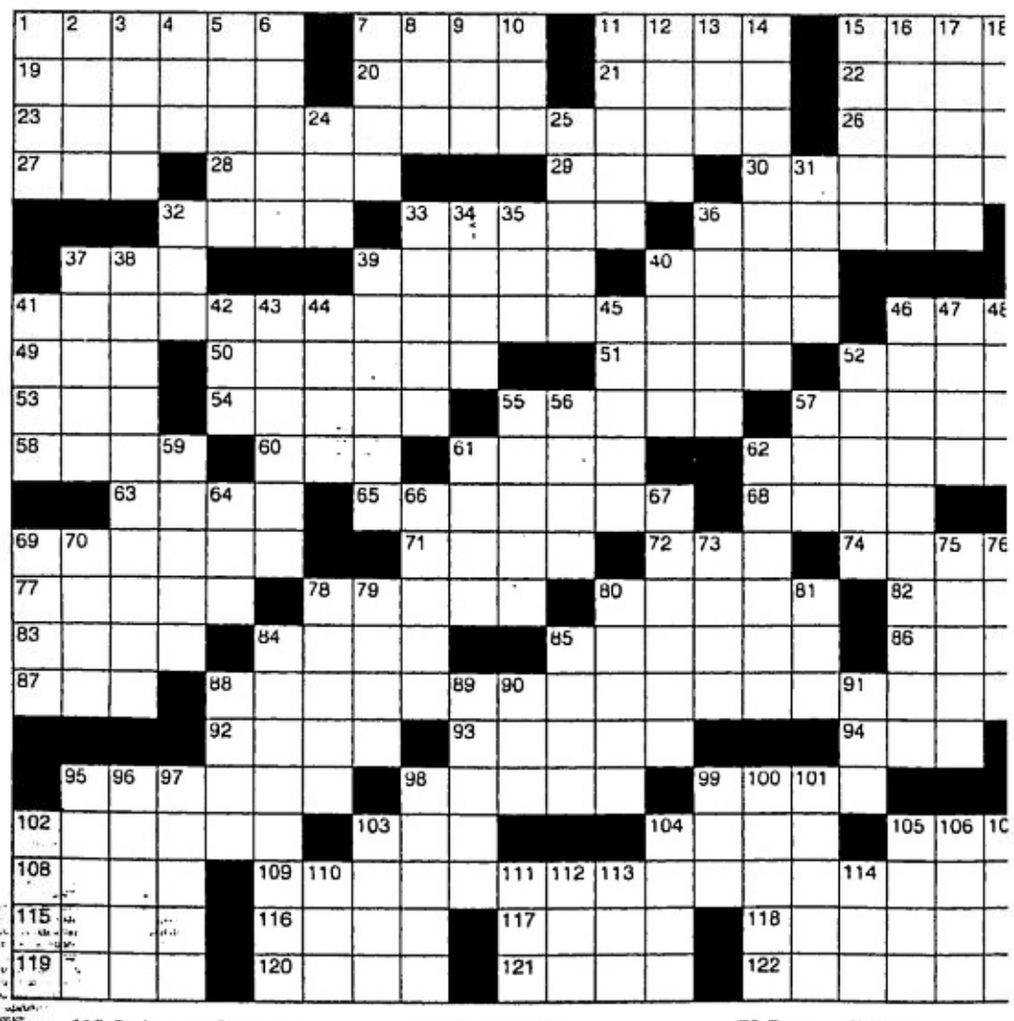
E-mail the author at chinachix@hotmail.com



THAI-INSPIRED cake in bright orange and lavender with cutout details, gold moldings and sugar elephants molded after actual ceramic figurines

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

WHO NEEDS IT?



ACROSS

1 Pay hike?
7 Chore
11 Styptic pencil stuff
15 Predicament
19 Model Kim
20 Press
21 It's a long story
22 "Inter —"
23 Start of a remark
26 Fluff the flour
27 Mr. Hammarskjold
28 Composer Satie
29 Majors or Marvin
30 Layers
32 Had kittens?
33 Postern and portcullis
36 Main squeeze
37 "— culpa"
39 Heavenly hunter
40 "I bet!"
41 Part 2 of remark
46 Faux —
49 Fireworks reaction
50 "— Boulevard" ('50 film)
51 They may be rolled
52 Billings or Mostel
53 Neighbor of Miss.
54 "— Blade" ('96 film)
55 Leans
57 It's taken by nurses
58 Sharp taste
60 Skater Midori
61 Wine choice
62 Nabokov novel
63 Kukla's colleague
65 Part 3 of remark
68 Fail to mention
69 Tedious
71 Sues or Shepard
72 Boathouse item
74 Objectives
77 Take on
78 Pack of partridges
80 Like many gyms
82 Cornfield cry
83 Calcium oxide
84 Non-stereo
85 Peaceful
86 Chemist Remsen
87 Singer Joey
88 Part 4 of remark
92 Heady quaffs
93 Respond to an alarm?
94 "Ask — Girl" ('59 film)
95 Fop's neckwear
98 Marsh bird
99 Facts, for short
102 Georgia athletes
103 Brit. fliers
104 Way to go?
105 Clean-air org.
108 Serenade accompaniment
109 End of remark
115 Fragrance
116 Peace of mind
117 "My word!"
118 Swimmer Gertrude
119 "Circus Boy" prop
120 Prophet
121 Lorre role
122 Triangular sail

DOWN

1 Spoke out
2 — Romeo
3 — shui
4 Medieval weapon
5 Kitchen gadget
6 Grenoble's river
7 Walrus weapon
8 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
9 NCO
10 It may be major
11 Fatheads
12 — bloomer
13 "Yuck!"
14 Mehta and Muti
15 Iraqi city
16 Homeric work
17 Cool
18 Base stuff?
24 Bream of baseball
25 Actress Graff
31 "— Angel" ('60 smash)
32 "Pshaw!"
33 "Peer Gynt" composer
34 Nonstandard contraction
35 "Mazel —!"
36 Fills the bill
37 Dough
38 Wharton work
39 "Smilla's Sense —" ('97 film)
40 Actuary's fig.
41 Ditch under a drawbridge
42 Road curve
43 Decree
44 Step — (hurry)
45 Nick of "The Deep"
46 Party animal?
47 Guy Fri.
48 Queens stadium
52 Raul of "The Addams Family"
55 At present
56 Rock's — Butterfly
57 Petite pooch
59 Bellyache
61 Journalist Ernie
62 Mime Yarnell
64 Picnic crasher?
66 Devastation
67 Fashionable event
69 Like Mussorgsky's mountain
70 Garfield's pal
73 Actor Guinness
75 Tie the knot
76 Fluctuate
78 Telescope view
79 Responsibility
80 Wired
81 — Plaines, IL
84 Exemplar of slowness
85 Cut cuticles
88 Cut coupons
89 "84 Charing Cross Road" author
90 Psychic Geller
91 — Paulo, Brazil
95 Uncouth
96 Boca —, FL
97 Ward off
98 Morley of "60 Minutes"
99 Charged atom
100 Puzo product
101 Singer Payne
102 Ink stain
103 Trick
104 Carthaginian queen
105 Raison d'—
106 Soccer superstar
107 Mideastern gulf
110 — kwon do
111 Jewel
112 Inflatable item?
113 Use a shuttle
114 Lepidopterist's need

ANSWER ON PAGE F5

LCF joins Earth Day celebration

THE ENVIRONMENT Committee of the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF) joins colleagues and friends from different sectors in a week-long activities celebrating Earth Day 2001. The activities include the "Walk for Life" walkathon in the PICC area today, 5:30-7:30 a.m., followed by vehicular smoke emission testing/engine diagnostics in the Malacañang Palace grounds, 8:30 a.m.-12 nn. Another round of engine diagnostics and vehicular smoke emission testing will be held until April 29 at The Fort. LCF also invites the general public to visit the week-long exhibits on "Solid Waste Management and other Environmental Management Initiatives" at the Glorietta 2 and at Storeys in The Fort until April 29. Call 892-9189/9084.

Book on natural health launching

"PERSPECTIVES on Natural Health: An Anthology of Holistic Medicine" by Dr. Josef de Ubaldo is the country's most comprehensive collection of articles, essays, lectures and researches on natural health for more than five years. The grand launching will be held on April 23 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Dr. Josef de Ubaldo, the country's pioneer in organizing national and international congresses on natural health and healing, was a recipient of the Star of Asia Award from the International University for Complimentary Medicine in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He was recently named ambassador and official correspondent of the World Federation of Integrated and Complementary Medicine, UK.

Isagani Yambot, publisher of the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, will deliver the keynote message. InnerMind Institute and PDI columnist, Jaime Licauco, will read the message in behalf of Sir Jason Winters, KGSJ for the World Federation of Integrated and Complementary Medicine, UK. A message from Dr. Jan Hakemulder, president of the International Federation of Alternative Medicine based in the Netherlands, also sent a wonderful message to be read by a representative from the Netherlands Embassy in Manila. Dr. Elizabeth Carrascoso-Cobb, medical director of the House of Representatives, together with Dr. Rolando Carbonell, noted Filipino poet and writer, will give the tribute. Grand Post International (Phils.) Inc. supports the event.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT CONTEST LAUNCHED

Unilever Phils. and the Rotary Club of Manila recently launched an environmental project contest for elementary and high school students enrolled in Manila's Districts 5 and 6 schools. Dubbed "Kabataan para sa Kalikasan," the project encourages the youth to showcase their contributions to the preservation of the ecology by describing in writing the projects they have undertaken at school or in the community and how these have helped improve the environment. Unilever general manager for corporate development Chito Macapagal and Rotary Club of Manila president Buster Arrastia (seated, fourth and fifth from right, respectively) posing with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports Manila officials led by superintendent Dr. Luisa Quinones (seated, third from left) and the different principals from Manila's District 5 schools.

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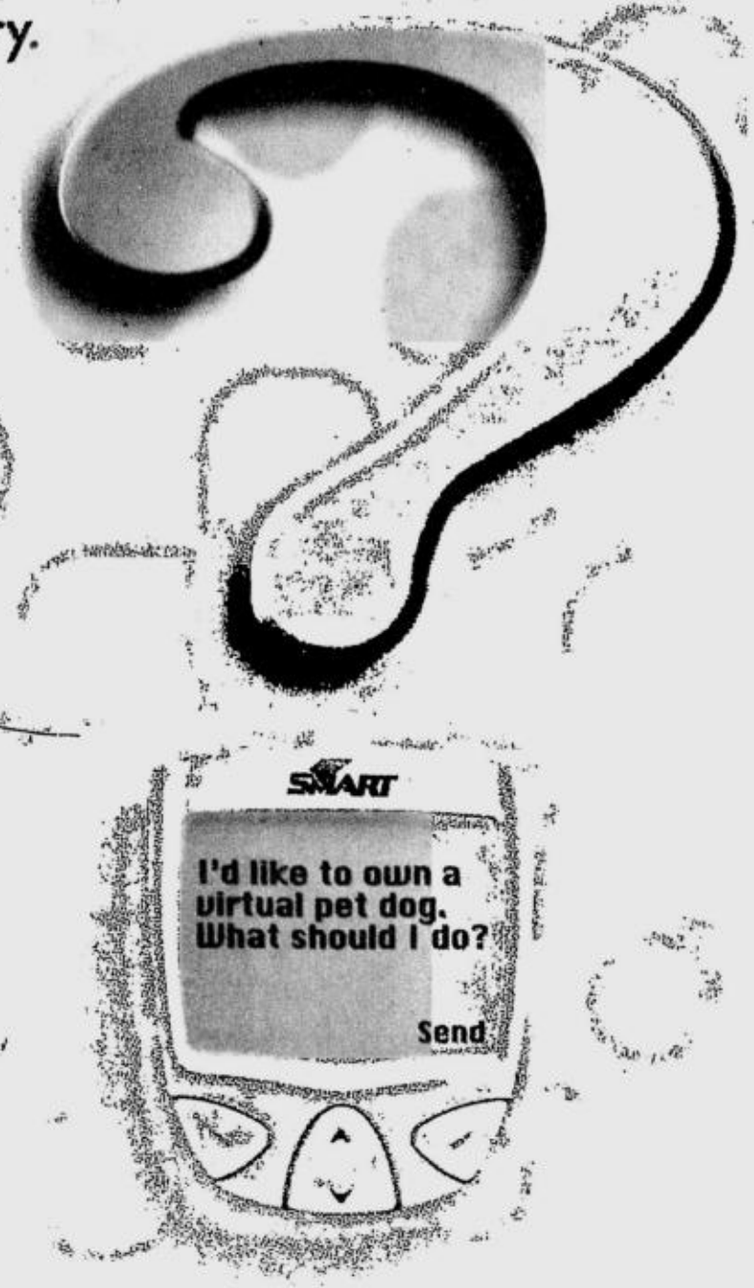

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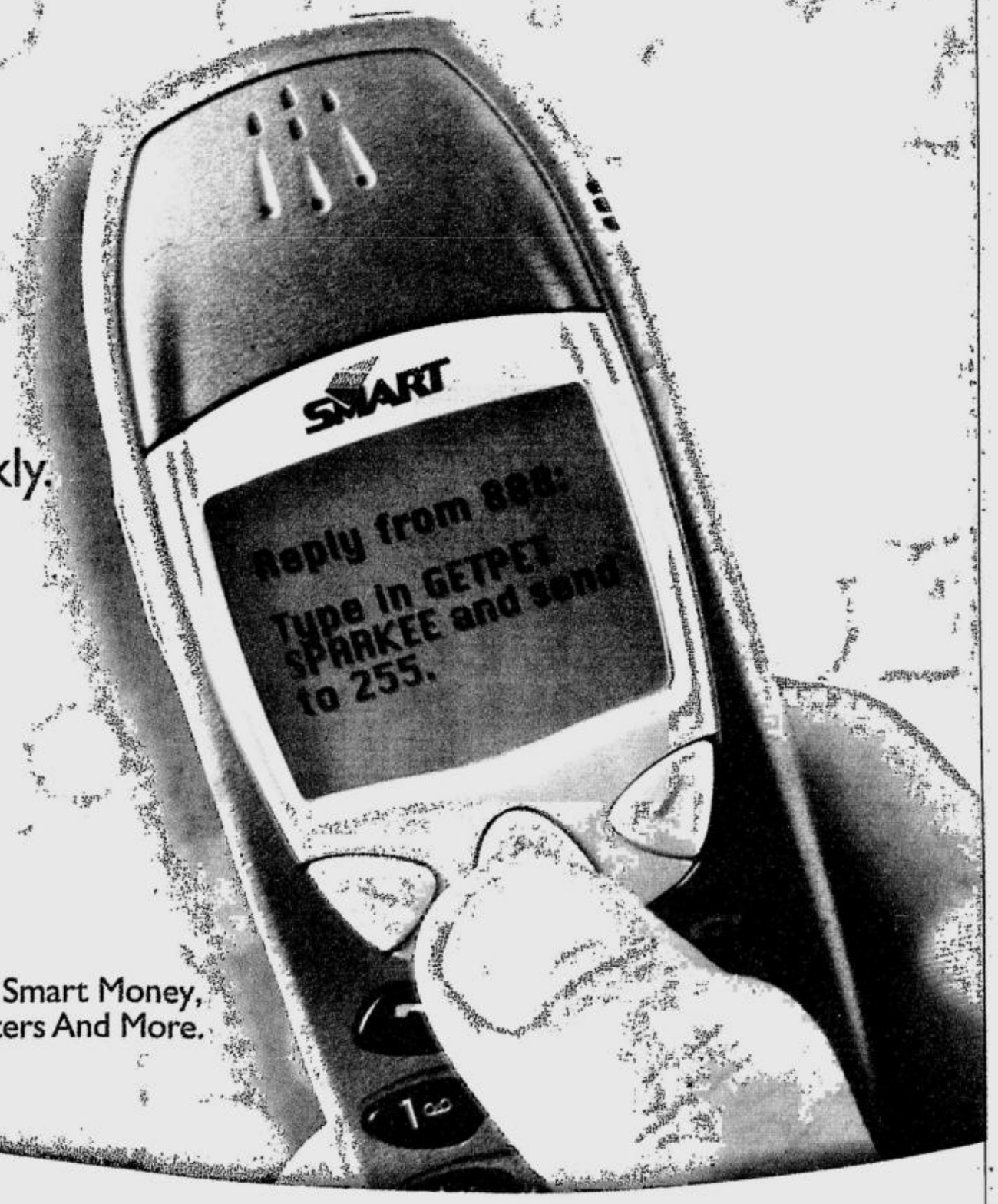

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Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

CLEMENTE-BUCU

Norby P. Clemente will wed **Luzviminda "Lhot" O. Bucu** on April 28 at the Nuestra Señora del Pilar Parish Church, San Simon, Pampanga.

The groom is the son of **Pio** and **Lilia Clemente** of Gattaran, Cagayan. A graduate of San Beda College of Law, he works with Brillantes Law Office in Intramuros, Manila. The bride is the daughter of **Borromeo** and **Cecilia Bucu** of San Simon, Pampanga. A management graduate of the University of the East, Lhot works with Rejan Technologies in Makati City.

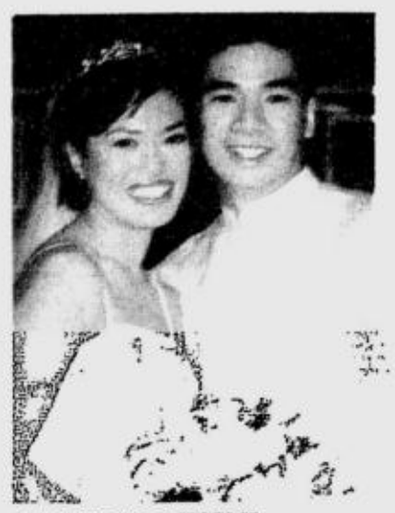
VELASCO-ELIDO

Juan Pablo Balon Velasco, son of **Enrique** and **Artemia B. Velasco**, and **Catherine Parcon Elido**, daughter of **Carlos Jr.** and Dr. **Elena P. Elido**, were married on Feb. 1 at the Archbishop's Palace, Villa San Miguel. The Mass was officiated by Rev. Fr. **Romarico Hilario**. Dinner reception was held at the Sky Top of Hotel Inter-Continental.

JP, a graduate of the University of the Philippines and University of Wales, Bangor, United Kingdom, works as a geophysicist in Singapore. Rina, a psychology graduate of St. Paul College-QC, manages the family restaurant in Mandaluyong.

MITRA-DOROTEO

Joaquin Hernando Mitra, son of the late House Speaker **Ramon Mitra** and **Cecille Mitra**, will exchange vows with **Donna Marie Doroteo**, daughter of **Antonio** and **Maria Christina Doroteo**, on May 4, at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Light in Pasay City. Reception will follow at the Makati Shangri-La.



PAULINO-MUSNI

Magnoli "Muffet" Musni, daughter of **Honorio** and **Juanita Musni**, married **Jose Noel Lionel Paulino**, son of **Teodoro** and **Adelina Paulino**, on Dec. 28, 2000 at the Immaculate Conception Church in Pasig City. Reception was held at the Garden Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

The bride wore a spaghetti-strapped gown embellished with cut beads and Swarovski rhinestones by **Letlet Veloso**. Overall coordination was done by Weddings by Victoria.

CASTILLO-LAGMAN

Maria Regina Lagman, daughter of **Romeo** and **Remedios Lagman**, exchanged matrimonial vows with **Joseph Joel Castillo**, son of **Felicito** and **Luisa Castillo**, on Dec. 9, 2000 at the Santuario de San Antonio Church in Forbes Park, Makati City.

The bride wore a spaghetti-strapped, A-line gown by **Patis Tesoro**.

Reception was held at the Peninsula Manila. Overall coordination was done by Weddings by Victoria.

BELTRAN-MONTEMAYOR

Benjamin "Benjie" Beltran Jr., son of engineer **Benjamin Sr.** and **Angelita Beltran**, married **Myra B. Montemayor**, daughter of **Feli B. Montemayor** and the late lawyer **Angel S. Montemayor**, on Jan. 28 at the Basilica de San Sebastian. Reception followed at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Inter-Continental Manila.

Benjie and Myra are shown with their entourage.

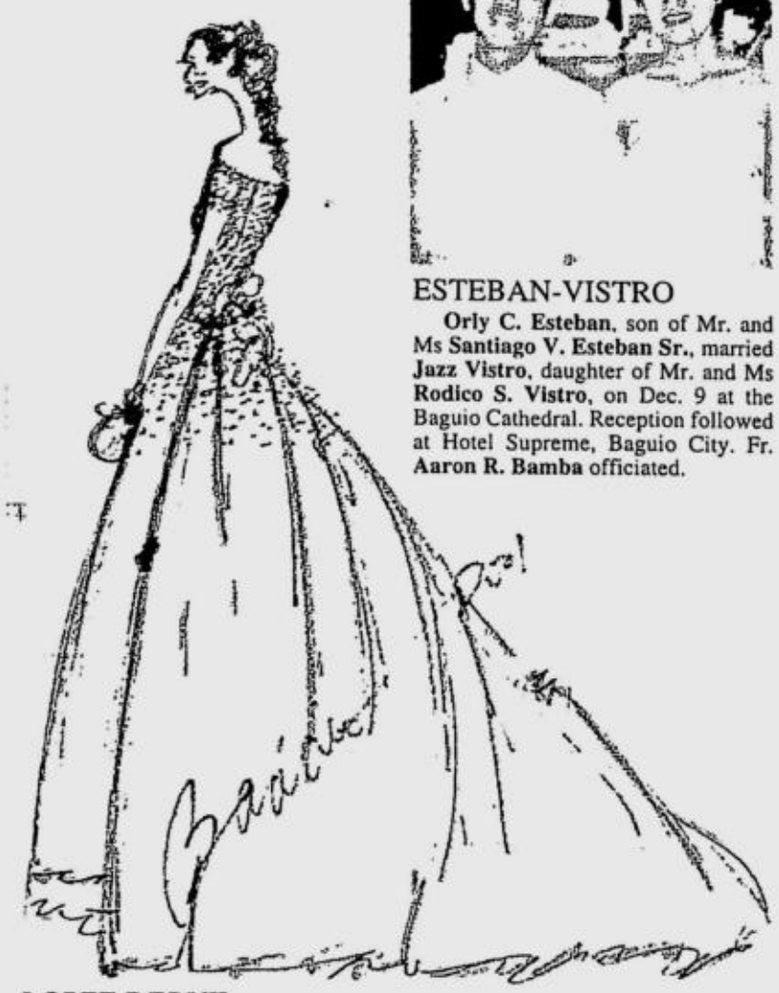
ESTEBAN-VISTRO

Orly C. Esteban, son of Mr. and Ms **Santiago V. Esteban Sr.**, married **Jazz Vistro**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Rodico S. Vistro**, on Dec. 9 at the Baguio Cathedral. Reception followed at Hotel Supreme, Baguio City. Fr. **Aaron R. Bamba** officiated.

GASGONIA-RAMOS

Perlita L. Ramos, daughter of **Willie** and **Raquel Ramos**, will wed **Jose G. Gasgonia**, son of **Domingo** and **Carmen G. Gasgonia**, on June 30 at the UCCP, Parañaque Community Church, Tambo, Parañaque City. Reception will follow at the UCCP Garden.

The bride will wear an off-shoulder gown of ecru shantung silk with intricate beadwork in the bodice designed by **Rollie H. Graza** of Balay Pagdaitan.



LOPEZ DEBUT

Bernadette Lopez, daughter of **Ben** and **Esmeralda Lopez**, celebrates her 18th birthday today at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel ballroom. She will be escorted by **Emmanuelle Ocsena Jr.** Bernadette is a BS HRIM student of De La Salle University-College of St. Benilde. She will wear an off-shoulder, drop-waist gown in monochromatic lavender, embellished with cut, round beads and tiny flat sequins. The bustle back top skirt also has a short train, designed and executed by **Eddie Baddeo**.

DE LOS REYES-SUBIDO

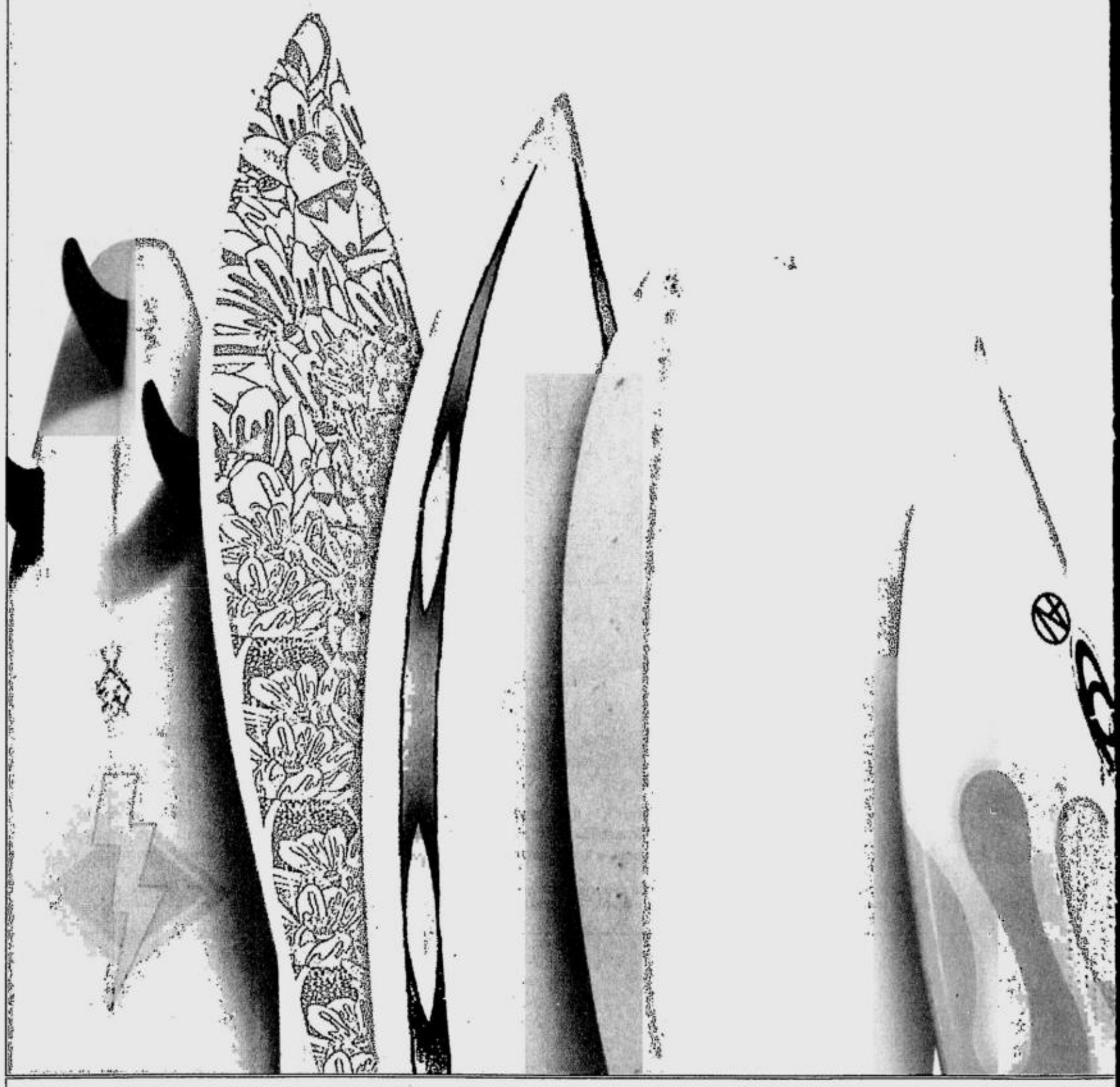
Dr. **Dana Mary Ann Subido**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Bernardo F. Subido**, and engineer **David de los Reyes**, son of Mr. and Ms **Regino de los Reyes**, will wed on April 28 at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Bauang, La Union. Reception will follow at Oasis Country Resort Hotels, San Fernando City.

The bride will wear an embroidered shantung silk gown with borealis pearls, glass beadwork and Swarovski crystals by **Boyet C. Dysico**.

CRAYONS

A group of 7 inter-active and skilled graduating students from U.P. Diliman. Featuring Sarah, Marcus, and Mylene on vocals, Nel on bass, JR on drums, Allan on guitars, and Peter on keyboards.

Catch them perform at Boracay this 28th of April 2001. For more details and information please call 456-0075 or 926-8486.



Catch Fun@Boracay at Cocomangas Beach Front, Bor

Torn between a possessive lover and an unwed father of three

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango

DEAR Joe,

I'm 18 years old, a sophomore student and blessed with a good and happy family. I have a boyfriend of 15 months. He comes from a well-to-do family. He's really nice, loving, faithful, handsome, neat and a gentleman. That's the reason many other girls and even gays envy me. If there's one thing I complain about, it is his possessiveness. He even gets jealous with my girlfriends.

I tried talking to him about it and he admitted his faults. He told me he'll do something about it, but he never changed. We broke up several times but we always end up in each other's arms.

One day, I met Ramil. He's 27 years old and good-looking, too. I don't believe in love at first sight but it happened to me. Ramil also felt the same way toward me. He knew of my relationship with my boyfriend and he was honest to admit that he already has three kids and is living in with the mother of the kids. They're not separated nor married. I accepted him for what he is. I'm happy being with him and I'm sure he is, too. I can openly say things to him and he listens to me. He makes me feel so special and we never had a fight about anything. We see each other constantly without my boyfriend and his girl knowing about it. Ramil and I are expressive of our feelings, but we never had sex. I know my relationship with Ramil has no assurance, but I love him. I feel so guilty because I know I'm cheating on my boyfriend and he is, too, with his girl.

I'm so confused. I'm afraid that one day, people will know about my relationship with Ramil and it would cause bigger trouble. Help me, Joe. I love Ramil, but I still love my boyfriend. I don't want my boyfriend to know about the things I'm doing because I don't want him to get hurt. He's the least person I would wish to hurt. Some things in this world aren't planned. They just happen.

I'm not so sure of what's in store for me. It's hard to give up one of them because they are both precious and important to me. My parents know nothing about this because I know they'll be very disappointed. What's the best thing to do? It's so hard to decide. Hope I'll get over this mess I got myself into. Thanks and God bless!

BHELLIE

There are times in our lives when we are made to choose between people who are equally important to us. People who share one common spot in our hearts. Given the option, we would rather not make a choice but under conflicting circumstances, we have to.

Bhellie, you and Ramil cheated on your partners because you both felt right about being together. You believe it is love that binds you with him. Maybe it is. But, is it really possible to love two people with the same intensity at the same time?

You said you love your boyfriend but you are secretly seeing someone else. How can that be love when you are willfully betraying the trust with which you have built your relationship upon?

It is always difficult when someone comes along and steals our heart away. This is the time when we have to rationally balance what our minds tell us what is right and what our hearts want.

The fact is, you can never have them both forever. One day, you will have to let go of either one or both of them. Never wait for tomorrow. Make your choice now. Just remember that our hearts can only feel. They don't think and they can be very deceitful. This is the reason we have to close our eyes when our passion sweeps over us like a gust of wind. If we don't, raging emotions will blind us and keep us from making sensible decisions. Let us use more of our heads than our hearts when we are overwhelmed by passion so that we can clearly see the path clouded by feelings out to mislead our relationships to their untimely deaths.

Join Hallmark's "Between You & Me Card Speak" contest! Get the chance to have your heartwarming story printed on the INQUIRER's 2bU! section every Wednesday. You also win two cool Swatch watches! Just tell us why the card you've chosen means so much to you in 300 words or less. Send the actual card to Filstar Distributors Corporation, 3/F Team Pacific Building, 13 Jose Cruz St., Ugong, Pasig City. Your favorite "Between You & Me" cards will be read on Love Notes every Friday,10 a.m. at WAVE 89.1.

E-mail the author at wave891@yahoo.com or at joe@ailink.net.

ZONTA Club of Makati Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) winners and finalists with Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste and Makati Zontians (from left) Caren Carandang, Shirley Bangayan, Dr. Iva Anastacio, Zonta Club of Makati and Enivirons Foundation Inc. president Monica R. Aveo, Linda Villanueva, Maritess Pineda and Vicky Wieneke

Earth Day activities

ON-THE-SPOT Artists Association of the Philippines (OTSAA) invites the public to a series of activities including performances of alternative pop/rock groups and the world premiere of an independent film today at the Manila Film Center (MFC). Dubbed as "Earth Day at the MFC," the activities are among the CCP's plans to rehabilitate and revive the MFC as a performing arts venue.

Starting at 9 a.m., the whole-day affair includes: Art Session and Photography Competition to be participated in by the OTSAA young artists from NCR; Tree Planting by Ms Philippines 2001 candidates, artists, volunteers, CCP guests and friends, at the MFC Grounds; Exhibition and Awarding of Competing Works; and, "May Katwiran ang Katwiran at Iba Pang Dula" book-launching by the late National Artist for Theater Rolando S. Tinio at the Promenade area. Highlights of the program include performances by alternative musicians, artists and poets namely The Purplechickens, an indie-pop group; the Talula Craft, a poetry-rock group; the Milk Bar, a post-punk music/poetry group, and; Gatula members Lille Bose, Edge Geronia and Easy Fagela, while dance improvisations will be provided by Jojo Mamangun and PHSA graduate Byag Gaongen. Dramatic readings of the works by Tinio will be performed by the Pamilya Teatro Pilipino members Angie Ferro, Divina Cavestany, Gamaliel Viray, Ricky Abad and more. An added treat will be a 70-minute music video by Khavn dela Cruz entitled "Greaseman," a story about the disparate lives of a *taong grasa* (Lou Veloso) and a yuppie (Eric Quizon). It also includes a psychedelic shadow play by the Anino Shadow Group. All events will be performed at the CCP Liwasang Paraiso (MFC Steps-Ampitheater, Manila Bayside).

The event is open to the public for free. Call the CCP Film Division at 832-1125, local 1704/05 or 832-5120.

BIKE CHALLENGE. A 25-KM cross country race is on today in Cagayan de Oro City. Organized by the Oro Cycling Club and sponsored by Alaxan, the mountain bike challenge will kick off at 7 a.m. at the plaza near the St. Augustine Cathedral. A registration fee of P300 includes lunch, a T-shirt and an Oro Cycling Club head scarf. Registration is ongoing at the Zamora Music School beside the plaza until the race begins. Call Dr. Jorge A. Bedayo at 0917-6069639.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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fond of fruit?

Drysdale

a·c·i·a·y on April 26-28, 2001. See you at the beach!

WITH THE SPONSORS. Chiqui Gonzalez, Maity Hollgores, Amparito Lhuillier, Carminia Mantecon, Cookie de Larrazabal, the newlyweds, Fernando Gaspar, Greggy Araneta, Paco Gonzalez, Jaime Ladao, Chiqui Gonzalez

THE NEWLYWEDS with the Araneta family: Dino, Monico, Linggoy, Maite and Santi, Connie, Juan Carlos and his wife Cay

CESAR and Bambina Buenaventura, Marilen and Octavio Espiritu, Doody Tuason

WITH THE DE LARRAZABALS. Jaime, Adrean, Joanna, Dang, Cookie, Cesar, Olga, the newlyweds, Fernando, Albert, Joan and her baby Sophia. The children in the front row are Enrique, Cheska, Mikey.

BEA Lucero-Lhuillier, Carmen and Jay Ong

JAVI Berenguer, Cay Araneta, Menchu Mantecon, Brian Head, Angela Trillo

ARTURO and Marissa Rocha

A fabulous wedding planned by Mom

(From page F1)

accessory business, Connie immediately worked with Antonio Garcia of Mabolo Flowers. Maite favored such colors as purple with magenta with accents of green as the motif. It was coincidental that they were spiritual colors since the wedding was held on the eve of Palm Sunday.

Collector Ramon Torres provided the bridal car—a 1923 Rolls Royce in lemon yellow. Inno Sotto designed the gowns of the bride and the groom's mother. Maite wore a beaded silk jersey gown with a low back and full bias skirts, under a sheer mesh encrusted with frosted beadwork. The groom's mother wore a straight-cut gown with cut beads that graduated in tones from topaz to gold and champagne. The gown was designed to complement her necklace of gold, rubies and diamonds.

Patrice Ramos designed the bridal entourage's gowns that were adorned with petal motifs. The groom wore a Hugo Boss suit.

In Santuario de San Antonio, 12-ft palm trees lined the aisles. Instead

ROSE petals and ribbons adorn the base of the multi-tiered fondant cake by Claudette.

of a red carpet, the center aisle was strewn with rose petals.

Because of Ms Araneta's foresight and resourcefulness in renting additional generators for the wedding ceremony, churchgoers in the masses before the wedding were spared from the darkness and heat. It was only at 8:30 p.m. when the wedding was nearly over that Napocor's power service in Santuario were restored.

At the Araneta residence, Napocor's power was already running. The gen sets supplied the energy for the lights in the garden. Hues of green, blue and magenta brought on a cool mood. Forty industrial fans were spread out throughout the garden to give the guests a feeling of being cooled by the breeze. To dress up the ordinary tents, Garcia added swags and drapes of diaphanous fabrics in earth tones. Buffet tables, laden with food by La Tasca, were accessorized with Ms Araneta's antique oxblood and jar collections and exotic bonsais. The Nonoy Lopez band and the Hyperbeat provided the music.

Guests were given teapots from China in varieties of blue and white, brown, white and pink.

The Aranetas' third son has expressed his desire to get hitched next year. The mother pleaded with him that she wanted to catch her breath after organizing two weddings.

She could easily hire a wedding planner, but as she would have it, the Brides Maids only came in as the wedding day drew near. Asked why she's so hands-on, Connie says that since the reception is held in her home, she wants to make sure that everything meets her expectations. "I want to be on top of everything. I'm very meticulous."

Well, as the adage goes, mother knows best.

TOUR DE FORCE. The décor of the table is made interesting by the play of sizes, shapes and textures. The drapes and swags in the tent evoke a light and airy feeling in summer. A chandelier adds drama. Oxblood vases, lacquered buckets, bamboo baskets, bonsai and wicker shades provide a resplendent Oriental backdrop for the food.

LOUIE and Cecile Ysmael, Ruby Roa

MARILOU Senn of La Tasca and Joe Hagedorn

(STANDING) Jomi Chuidian, Paolo Tuason, Conkoy Tuason, Christopher Tuason, Peter Hager; (seated) Ben Solon, Ramon Tuason, Louie Chuidian

CARMEN de los Reyes, Maripaz Godinez, Greggy and Irene Araneta

PHILIPPE and Edna Lhuillier

GLORY Alcuaz, Marivic and Joe Concepcion

(STANDING) Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, Marites Climent, Itos Velhagen; (seated) Carol Masibay, Bomboy and Baby Araneta, Vivian Yuchengco

RINGBEARER Joshua Longga admires the bride.

CARMEN Gonzalez, (the groom's maternal grandmother) Conchitina Ladao, Margarita Araneta (the groom's paternal grandmother)

He falls in love with his textmate whom he hasn't met

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I know this will sound silly, but I think I have fallen in love with a girl whom I know only through text messaging and probably will never ever meet in person. In fairness to her, I should make it clear she had asked that we meet, but it was I who declined.

You see, *Tita*, I'm 25 and I have cancer. I did not want her to know about my ailment because I fear she would only entertain me out of pity, and pity is the last thing I want from people, especially from her.

It began some two weeks ago, when I wanted very much to talk to someone so I dialed a number at random. A girl answered on the other end, but since I could not talk because of the surgery I had, I just sent her a text message. She was very accommodating and she replied.

We exchanged texts and I got to know more about her. Then I began to fall in love with her.

I know that is very unusual, for how can a guy fall for a girl whom he hasn't met? I want to personally introduce myself to her, but I can't because I'm stuck here in my room. We stopped texting each other lately, but still I miss her terribly.

JAY

Is it really love you feel? I'm not sure it is. Love, to me, is something I'd feel for someone whom I know as an entire person and not just as an impression; someone whose good sides and bad sides I've seen and experienced; someone who, after I've computed his plusses and minuses, I decided is the person I'd like to spend my life with.

"Friend" is not quite that someone yet. Right now, she's just some squiggles on the screen of your cell phone—intelligent and engaging, maybe, but still, just squiggles. She's not a person, but only an impression.

"Big crush" is, I think, the term teeners use today. A big crush would, in my time, be called "terminal case of infatuation." Infatuation, by itself, is already quite easy to be mistaken for as love. But the tendency to make that mistake in your case, I think, is compounded by your special situation. Serious ailments tend to isolate the afflicted person and tend to give him no one to interact with but only his family, his caregivers. Worse, such ailments sometimes lead the sick person to think that all the attention or loving he receives from them springs only from pity.

And, perhaps, *hijo*, that was what happened when "Friend" exchanged text messages with you while she did not know yet of your ailment. She reacted to you as Jay and not as a cancer patient, and you found the encounter exhilarating as it liberated you from your preoccupation with your sickness.

If that is the case, Jay, could it be possible you "fell in love" with the liberation and not with the liberator? And, also, if that is the case, then wouldn't it be more accurate to say what you feel for her is more of gratitude and less of love?

So before you get to that point, I'd like to offer this thought to you right now: Could it be possible, *hijo*, that Friend came into your life not really to entangle you with some profound emotions such as love but only to bring across the simple message that you can still look forward to tomorrow?

Because of your sickness, you have probably been very preoccupied with, as you said, "Time not favoring you at this point in life" and, so, you view each new day as another set of 24 hours slipping away, and you slipping away with them. But who is to say who departs and when? The healthiest person among us might actually be the first to go, and people much sicker than you are now might actually outlive you and me. Isn't it then, my dear, a tad pointless to bother who time favors or not?

What is not pointless though, as Friend has shown you, is looking forward to tomorrow, being optimistic, watching out for the good things, expecting the best. Every day each of us sends a special text message to a number we dial at random. And every day we have the chance to get a nice reply, a reply that exhilarates us and liberates us from whatever has been holding us down—fear, doubt, hatred, ignorance or indifference.

And perhaps it was not really you who decided you should not meet Friend in person. Perhaps it was Someone Greater Than You and I who did. Perhaps that's because it is better that Friend remains faceless so that, beginning today, it may be easier for you to make Friend anyone and everyone, or anything and everything: Persons you've always known, persons new to you, a novel idea, a cliché seen in a new way, the stars on a clear night, the setting sun on drizzly afternoon, a butterfly coming out of its cocoon, a new movie, an old book, love. (the real one)... *Hijo*, the list is endless, and in every second that time stands still as we, too, rejoice in someone or something, so are we.

E-mail the author at titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.

SISFU SHAPES THE FUTURE WITH WORLD CLASS E-DUCATION

The need for world-class education is rapidly growing as a result of globalization and stiff competition among multinational corporations around the world. With highly advanced technology, increasingly fast-paced lifestyle, and with the business industry becoming more and more interdependent globally, education has become more international in nature.

FOREIGN CREDENTIALS

SISFU responds to this very challenging need. Its birth is cutting-edge in world-class education, acclaimed as being the first and the best international college in the country that develops internationally recognized industry leaders. It is committed to deliver the most focused, updated, industry-relevant, and internationally accredited curriculum and credentials in a world-class environment.

At par with the international standards of education, SISFU is accredited with foreign institutions and organizations such as; **the British Accreditation Council (BAC), Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) of USA, American Council of Recognition and Post-secondary Accreditation (CORPA), Department of Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA) of Australia,** as well as local recognition. With these successful affiliates, every student will be equipped with global scale education similar to the different top universities and colleges around the world today. SISFU provides them the privilege to earn international credentials while studying in the Philippines, making it an international college alternative. Thus, students need not incur exorbitant costs just to earn a diploma abroad because they can take the first one or two years of their course right here in the country. After which they have the option of pursuing a bachelor's degree in any of the affiliate campuses abroad.

AUTOMATIC FULL TRANSFER OF CREDITS

Furthermore, given SISFU's international accreditation and affiliation, every student will enjoy the benefits of *Automatic Full Transfer of Credits.* SISFU's students need not take any qualifying exams because SISFU is considered as the Philippine campus-counterpart of these foreign institutions. In addition, SISFU will also facilitate all other necessary arrangements such as visa, transportation, board and lodging and orientation requirements of the students before they transfer abroad.

COMPETENT FOREIGN AND LOCAL FACULTY

Moreover, SISFU boasts of its mixed foreign and local faculty who are industry practitioners from whom students gain knowledge through industrial visits, computer-assisted lectures, tutorials, individual research, team projects and practical work. *"Our lecturers are all industry people. None of them are purely academicians. They practice what they teach on a daily basis, and they are successful in their chosen field," says* ***Mr. Roger Bartholomew, president of SISFU.*** SISFU also anticipates latest developments and reviews their curriculum every year. *"Since computer study is advancing rapidly, ideas two years ago may be obsolete today. That is why we review our computer curriculum every semester and see to it that we are at par with the current technological advancements. We also have constant dialogue with our overseas counterparts at London City College for our business course. We sit down three to four days to discuss what we teach, where the school is going and what necessary adjustments to make,"* he added. Thus every student is equipped with these necessary strength and ability to perform well in Global Business and Information Technology (IT) related fields. This is the result of the fact that the courses offered are very relevant in the age of globalization, hence employability is high both here and abroad. As Mr. Bartholomew explains further, *"When students leave us, they are adequately equipped to immediately go to the world of business, computers and hotel management. They are highly competent to understand and succeed in the world that they wish to pursue."*

This is confirmed by **Chip Locsin,** one of the top students of **Insearch UTS:** *"I am really amazed at how much I have learned even when I was still in my first term as Graphics and Animation student. In less than a year; I was able to apply my theoretical and practical knowledge and skills through part time jobs in top companies."*

MAJOR SUBJECTS ONLY

"We create standards on how the school performs on a global basis," adds Mr. Bartholomew. To be able to perform well on global market industry. SISFU provides an industry-relevant, focused curricula on international standards. Which means only major subjects are taught (no PE, ROTC, and other general education subjects), so students just study those subjects that are pertinent to the course they are taking up. **Carmeli Teves,** top student of **IHMES International Hotel School** *says, "I am confident that the international standards of training and discipline that I have undergone at SISFU will help me in achieving my goals. The IHMES program is perfect for people like me who are in a hurry to finish school and start earning since we do not have to take the subjects that are not really directly related to our chosen course, and therefore finish early. I also appreciate the fact that earning an international diploma is no longer a far-fetched dream for Filipinos as they can already earn it without having to study abroad."*

HIGH FACULTY TO STUDENT RATIO

Besides SISFU's comprehensive curriculum, their classes are set up with a high faculty to student ratio. Classes are made small enough so that the student are thoroughly guided. It is almost a tutorial set-up. As **Nataniel Co Yeu,** top student of **London City College** *puts it, "What I like about SISFU is that, classes are kept small so that each student is really able to cope well with the lessons as the lecturers have the time to monitor our progress. I also like the fact that the lessons are not confined in the classroom alone because we get the chance to visit various companies and observe actual corporate set-up. We also learn a lot from our lecturers because they have experience to match their academic credentials."*

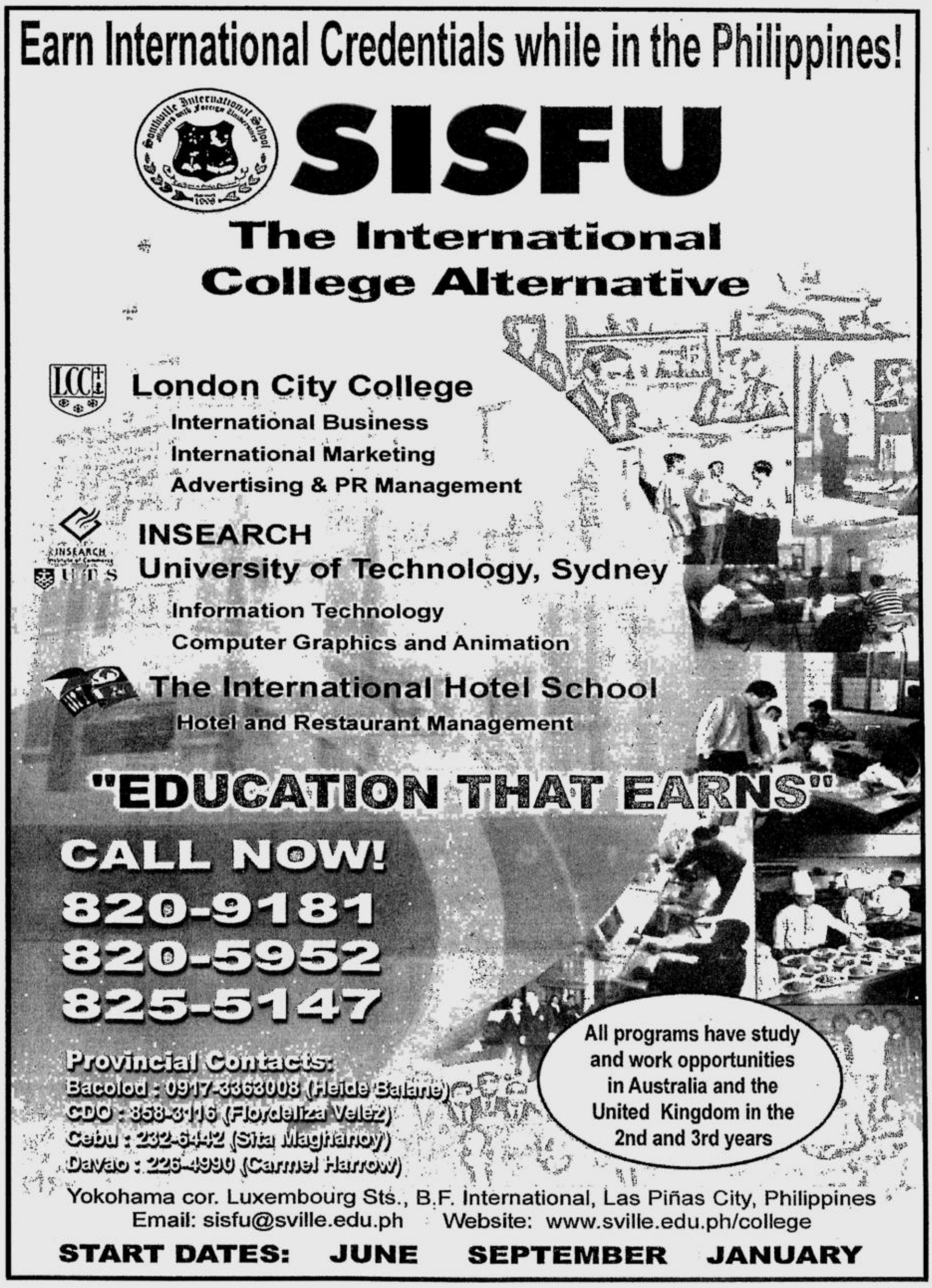
PAID PRACTICUM TRAINING

With all the outstanding benefits that are gained by the students at SISFU, they are also given the privilege of paid-on-the-job training. The IHMES International Hotel School programs allows student to do paid apprenticeships in top hotels in the United Kingdom on their 2nd year, and all students are allowed to work part-time while studying in the United Kingdom and Autralia.

In order that parents and students enjoy more great advantages, SISFU's programs allow students who are fresh out of high school to stay with their families first for a year or two and get used to a foreign school set-up before they actually proceed abroad. By then, they would already have the level of maturity necessary to take on independence.

SISFU, located at BF Homes International in Las Pinas City gives more advantage for those who those living in the southern part of Metro Manila as they will be unfettered by bumper to bumper traffic.

With today's kind of communication and for business industries that require high skilled, well-trained professionals who know and understand a profitable global economy, SISFU delivers the right requirements that answer the international need for a world-class education that develops world-class leaders.



Nuptial cakes go Oriental

BY HARRIET ANN DY

DRAGONS not only have been conquering the big screen and the Oscars; the last two years have seen a resurgence of an Eastern consciousness from cuisine to, yes, wedding cakes.

This is the observation of Penk Ching who, together with sister Shen Chen, make up the formidable team behind Pastry Bin, one of the leading cake designers today.

Until recent memory, she says many of her clients, particularly Tsinoys, have shunned cakes with traditional prosperity elements like chocolate gold coins and red cardboard cutouts of the Chinese character *shu* or long life for Martha Stewart-esque fondant masterpieces. "The impression and interpretation of cakes was very old," she says.

There was none of the gold hand calligraphy that Pastry Bin did for a client's birthday cake last year, where they dipped traditional Chinese brush ink in red food color to fill in the quilted diamond moldings with various versions of the character *shu* in old-style Chinese script. Nor were there any of the giant gum paste peach buns—another long-life element—and the *shu* character carved in Styrofoam and covered in gum paste with gold etching that characterized the 10-ft tall birthday cake of a taipan's mother early this year.

Hip East

With the East gaining hip factor these days, even Western-educated, third-generation youngsters like transplanted Canadian and recent bride Bonita Limketkai have opted to celebrate her and husband Noel Lee's heritage as a wedding theme.

Aside from dressing up her entourage in the traditional cheongsam and hiring a Chinese orchestra, the couple hired Pastry Bin to create a 5-ft tall cake in bright purple, red and yellow, with a dragon snaking around the masterpiece. There were also gum paste yellow coins and

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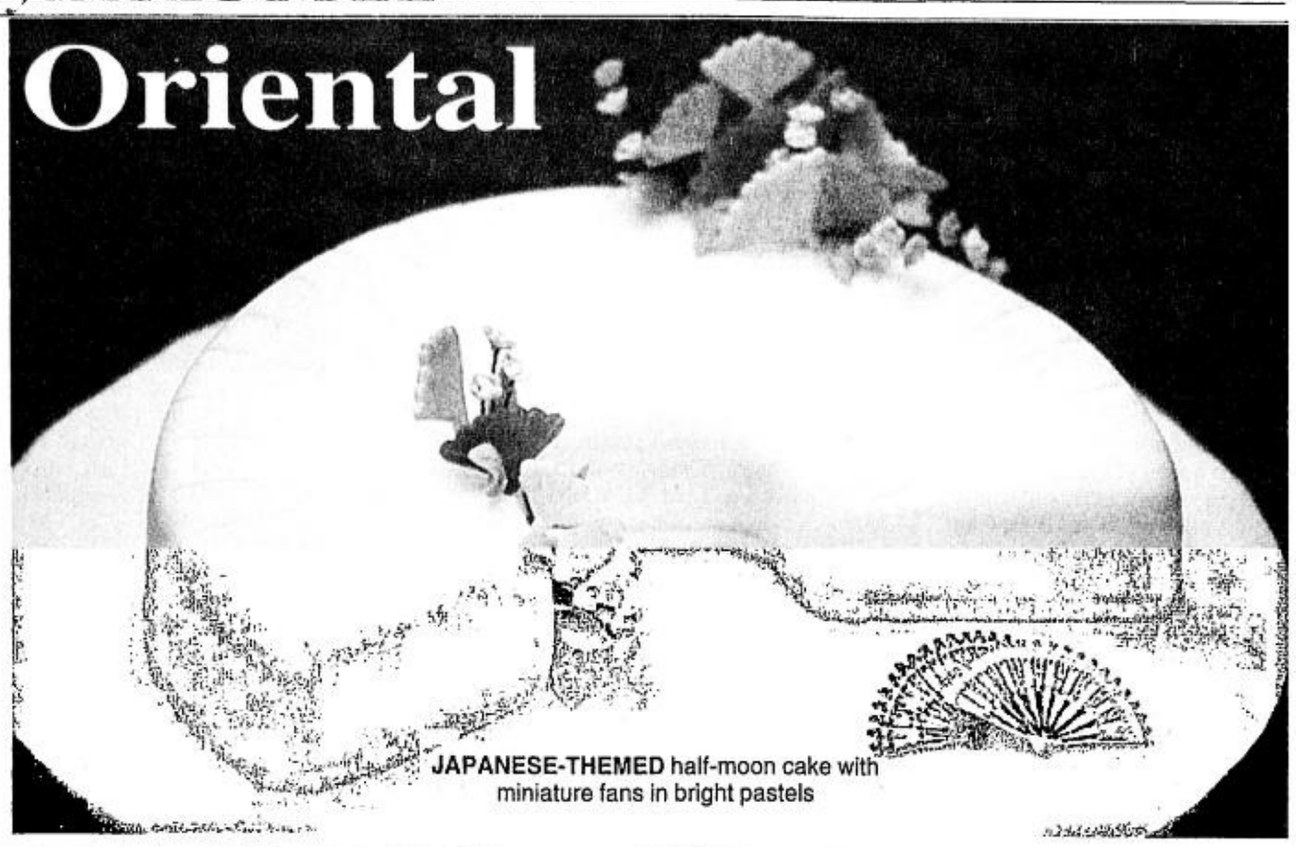

JAPANESE-THEMED half-moon cake with miniature fans in bright pastels

THE POWER TO LIVE THE LIFE YOU CHOOSE.
SMART zed™

Celebrity Pals
PRESENTS
virtual joyce

BRINGING YOU FUN
ON A VIRTUAL LEVEL

I'm **Virtual Joyce**— your newest SMART zed virtual pal. Like the other **Celebrity Pals**, you can make me your very own. Take me out to dinner, coffee, or even watch a band play. Find out more about me as we get to know each other and be really good friends. You can check out what mood I'm in, whether I'm happy or sad, and even view my image! You'll even be rated and ranked versus my other friends. It's fun and easy!

Keep this ad and get a chance to meet me in person real soon!

PICK Joyce
1. Type PICK Joyce and send to 250.

GIVE flowers
2. Give Joyce gifts. Type GIVE <item> and send to 250.

GO bar
3. Go places with Joyce. Type GO <place> and send to 250.

KISS
4. Show Joyce how you feel. Type HUG or KISS and send to 250.

STATUS P
5. Know where you stand with Joyce. Type HI and send to 250. Plus, get an autographed logo or picture message. Type STATUS O for an operator logo, STATUS G for a group graphic and STATUS P for a picture message, and send to 250.

Powered by:
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PERSONALIZED GREETINGS

The possibilities are endless. Experience Virtual Joyce—only with SMART!

Celebrity Pals standard service rates are P2.50/message sent and P12.00/logo, icon and picture message downloaded. Operator logos, group graphic icons and picture messages are supported by selected Nokia phones only.

SMART zed services are available through:

SMART GOLD GSM
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T'N'T Trends & Trendings

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Kitty logo goes global, best-dressed women named and HK fashion comes to town

WHAT'S new pussycat? Other Hello Kitty accessories

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

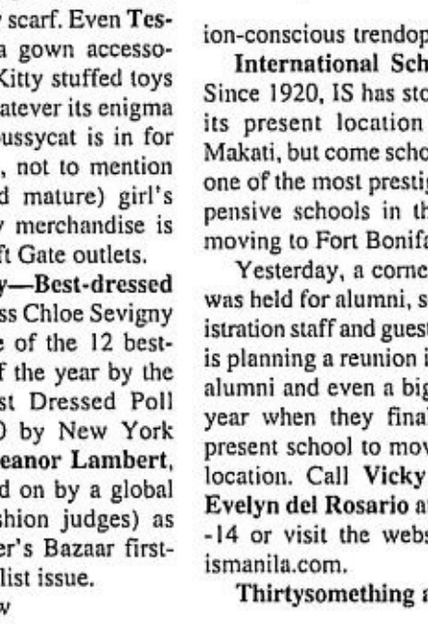
MUST-HAVE toy/logo/cartoon—Hello Kitty. She has caught the world by storm. The cartoon character with trademark bow and missing mouth is bigger than **Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera** and even **Madonna** put together. She's been around for 26 years. She only started out as a graphic on stationery and pencil cases, but this Japanese cat has reached cult status and has become an international phenomenon.

If they could have their way, Hello Kitty's creators would make sure this cartoon creates its mark in every aspect of your life: CD players, Polaroid cameras, wallets, T-shirts, coffee maker, toaster, a Swarovski jewel-encrusted watch ($30,000 estimate), scooter and car.

Nobody can really pinpoint the success of Hello Kitty. Nevertheless, even jaded New York fashionistas sport the latest fashion must-have—Hello Kitty scarf. Even **Tessa Valdes** wore a gown accessorized with Hello Kitty stuffed toys to a ball once. Whatever its enigma and charm, this pussycat is in for world domination, not to mention every young (and mature) girl's heart! Hello Kitty merchandise is available at all Gift Gate outlets.

Chloe Sevigny—Best-dressed woman. Hip actress Chloe Sevigny was adjudged one of the 12 best-dressed women of the year by the International Best Dressed Poll (founded in 1940 by New York fashion maven **Eleanor Lambert**, the poll is decided on by a global committee of fashion judges) as well as US Harper's Bazaar first-ever best-dressed list issue.

In an interview with the magazine, the actress took swipes at other fashionable actresses and society women. Of **Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy**, she said, "She always looked elegant but **Gwyneth** wishes," adding, "People are saying **Kate Hudson** is fashionable now, she's boring to me." **Charlize Theron** is "tacky," and "**Nicole Kidman** was paid a million dollars to wear those dresses!" Wow, she may have dress sense but may not be very popular with other actresses.



BEST-DRESSED WOMAN WITH AN ATTITUDE. Actress Chloe Sevigny on the cover of US Harper's Bazaar

Flamer's a must-try. Recently I ate at Flamer's on Ortigas Avenue and was in for a surprisingly healthy time. Like a lot of people, I am not going to pass up a juicy hamburger (100-percent Australian beef), especially if it has less fat since the beef is charbroiled over volcanic rocks in an open flame pit. Other items on the menu include charbroiled chicken in different flavors like teriyaki, lemon pepper and cajun. It's the only American-style fast food that offers healthy alternatives. Flamer's is located at G/F Millennium Place, Meralco Avenue, Pasig, and at the Festival Mall, Alabang.

U2 now in Manila. For those who go to HK a lot, you may know this. One of the most popular and trendy fashion chains, U2, is setting up shop in Manila. The franchise was bought by the Cinderella group headed by **Therese Santos** and son **Richie**. The first shop will be at the Glorietta Mall. I am sure this will be a sure-fire hit for Manila's fashion-conscious trendophiles.

MUST-HAVE cartoon character/logo/toy—Hello Kitty

International School moving. Since 1920, IS has stood ground at its present location in Bel-Air, Makati, but come school year 2002, one of the most prestigious and expensive schools in the country is moving to Fort Bonifacio.

Yesterday, a cornerstone laying was held for alumni, school administration staff and guests. The school is planning a reunion in June for all alumni and even a bigger one next year when they finally close the present school to move to the new location. Call **Vicky Herrera** or **Evelyn del Rosario** at 896-9801 to -14 or visit the website at www.ismanila.com.

Thirtysomething angst. I had a grand time during my Easter break, which I spent in Calatagan with friends. One of my friends' 17-year-old daughter was there along with four of her classmates. I am not into this generation's teen culture and was up a stump on what to discuss with 17-year-olds. I can't seem to get into their music (read: **Eminem**, Britney Spears, boy bands) and have relegated myself to listening to Café del Mar tunes.

Well, much to my surprise, I found a common denominator via the TV show "Survivor." We spent half the afternoon going over the characters, obstacles and the like. They were happy that **Jerri** was voted but wanted **Elisabeth** to win.

Things were going great till I was asked the inevitable question that made me realize the truth: "What was it like growing up in the '80s?" Up to this point, I really thought I was quite young. These kids were born the year I graduated from high school exactly 17 years ago (read: disgusting!).

They furthered the age barrier when one of them even asked, "Was **Cyndi Lauper** really big then?" I felt like I was some person brought back to life to tell them about the past, not nice especially if you're only 28, uhmm, 34. So, as best as I could. I told them how my high school years were like. Yes, we hated homework and some teachers. We used to hang out in Faces, Tia Maria's, Jalisco and Roxy's. I also told them that punk rock was big (think: B-52's, Devo) and that we had the same teacher and counselor (**Mr. Acuna** and Vicky Herrera), and yes, Cyndi Lauper was today's **Pink** (bet you don't know who Pink is).

What I learned from all this is that time flies really fast. One day you are in your teens, 20s, 30s and soon will be in your 40s (read: doubly disgusting). I had to ask myself if I would want to trade places with them (think: youth, endless possibilities to pursue, new experiences, etc.) Maybe not. Who wants to have acne and bad fashion taste?

But I envy all that promise. My guru-like personality wanted to leave them with something wise, something they can remember when they go to college: "Remember to enjoy your senior year. Be nice to everyone and wear sunscreen. The way one ages these days due to UV rays, stress and pollution, once they reach 30 they may actually look 40."

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

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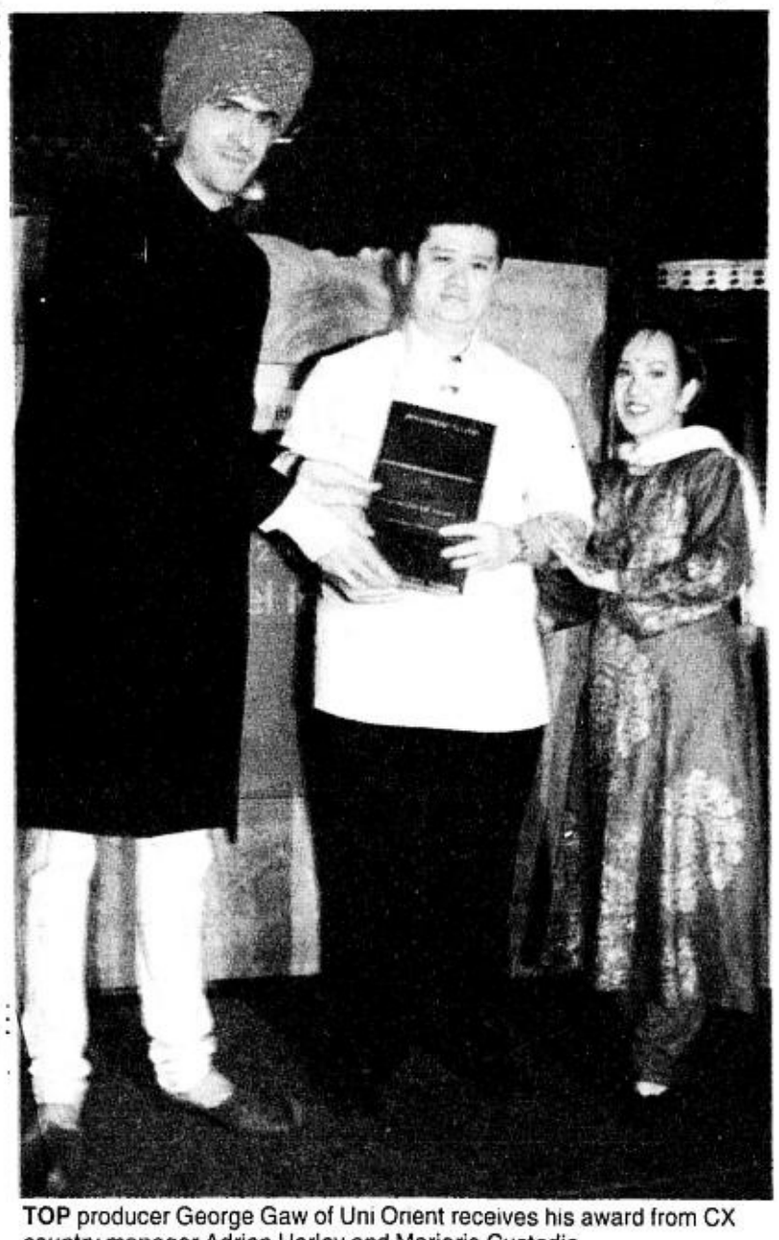


TOP producer George Gaw of Uni Orient receives his award from CX country manager Adrian Harley and Marjorie Custodio.

THE RICH and colorful legacy of India was recreated in the highly successful Top Producers party of Cathay Pacific Airways, which has just launched its services to Delhi in addition to its existing flights to Mumbai.

Cathay Pacific's popular and charming country manager Adrian Harley together with assistant sales manager Marjorie Custodio, cargo manager Gabby Sebastian and the entire Sales and Marketing team welcomed the guests in the delightful Spices restaurant of Peninsula Manila Hotel, which was transformed into a fascinating blend of flora and city complete with historical forts and monuments. Even the whole CX team was transformed—from Adrian Harley, who came in a stylish Indian tailored suit with matching turban, to the staff who gamely donned eye-catching saris and jewel-colored outfits.

Traditional *bindis* (beads) were given out and the women took to displaying them on their foreheads. Talented henna tattoo artists created intricate designs on some guests' hands, ankles and arms. And of course, no one could resist the exotic Indian cuisine served that evening—from the pitas, samosas, tandooris, kebabs and pakoras.

Guests were then escorted to the main area of the restaurant. As they entered, rose petals were thrown at their feet as is customary in Indian rituals.

Highlight of the affair was the awarding of the top producers, who have contributed to the success of Cathay Pacific and its record-breaking profit last year. The Top 10 travel bigwigs who accepted their awards were George Gaw from Uni Orient, Albert Fu from Pan Pacific, Raymond Tee from Horizon, Jane Cuyegkeng from Pioneer Tours, Melissa Ungson from Marsman Tours, Emiliano Garchitorena from Morning Star, Leopoldo Arnaiz of Thomas Cook, Zenaida Chua of Fortune Travel, Ricky Morella of Adventure and Angel Lim of Consolidated Tours. Arion Acurantes of Win Link was present as well to accept a special award. Not to be missed were the cargo bosses—Perfecto Villanueva from Freight Options, Eddie Boy de Guzman from Skyfreight, Maris Regis from Airspeed, Eric Macaisa from Circle Freight, Toshikasu Shimizu from Nippon Express, and special awardees Mike Ampil from Bax Global, Keisuke Kimoto from Kintetsu and Takamoto Ito from Yusen.

LEOPOLDO Arnaiz of Thomas Cook, Malou Casal of Win Travel, Melissa Ungson of Marsman and CX's Marjorie Custodio

RAYMOND Lauchengco as Rama

EXCERPTS from "Rama at Sita"

As a special surprise number, Cathay Pacific, in cooperation with SK Entertainment, dazzled everyone with a presentation by the original cast of "Rama at Sita," including Raymond Lauchengco, Edward Granadosin and the Whiplash.

Before the evening ended, two business-class tickets to Delhi were raffled off and won by Lulu Villanueva of Lucky Travel and Maris Regis.

CLARENCE Aytona of Win Link Travel with CX's Peewee Miras

HANDS-ON. Angela Liew, assistant to the Cathay Pacific country manager, gets a henna tattoo as customer services manager Mario Gozun looks on.

Selecta Indulgence

WARNING: THE FOLLOWING PRODUCT CONTAINS EXPLICIT ALMOND BRICKLE AND COOKIE BITS, CHOCOLATE RIPPLE EXPOSURE, OBSCENE AMOUNTS OF CHEWY FUDGE BROWNIES, IN UNCUT LAYERS OF SCANDALOUSLY-RICH CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM. RECOMMENDED FOR ADULTS ONLY.

Bet you never thought ice cream could be so hot.

In Ultimate Chocolate and Mango Overload.

Like Madonna

CEBU'S fashionable crowd gave tribute to Madonna—modern music's queen of disco, the icon of reinvention—through an all-night dance park at Club Fuel.

Sponsored by Smart Zed, the mobile portal for personalized wireless services, the party welcomed Madonna fans who came dressed to the nines. Brave enough diehards entered the contest as cross-dressing Madonna through the years, from "Material Girl" to "Like a Virgin," from the "En Vogue" era to Austin Powers' "Beautiful Stranger" period. The dancing audience chose the winner through loud cheers.

En Sepia's Mario Colmenares proved once more why he's one of Cebu's coolest events organizer. The Club, located at The Village, is a definite must-go place for the young and hip this side of the country.

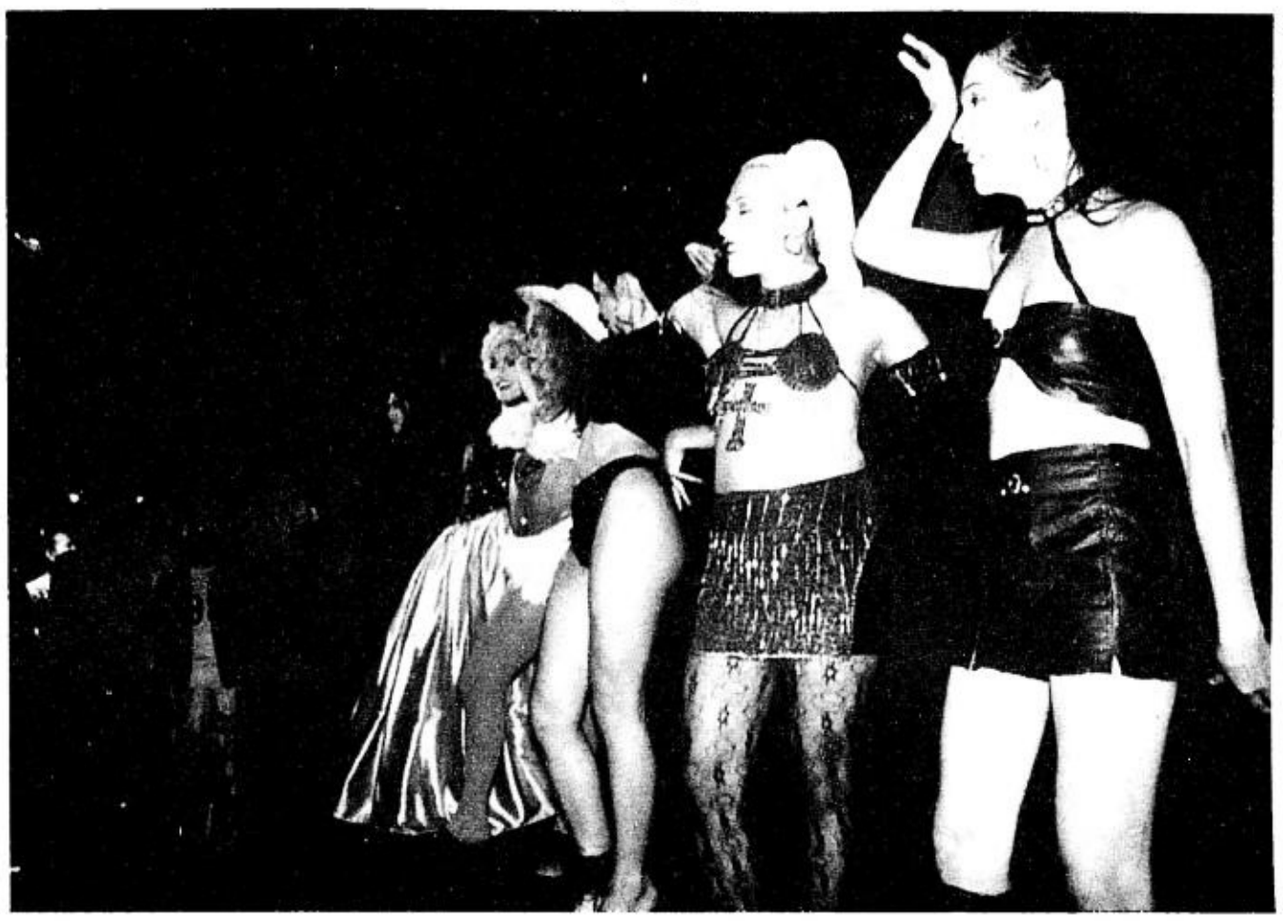
CEBU'S young generation

SMART set cheers on Madonna diehards.

IT'S not just the trench coat, it's also the cow-print pouch!

SMART public affairs officer Ruth Tadeo checked out Club Fuel earlier with Manila Bulletin's Red Samar and PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER's Erwin Oliva as they take a breather from the Cebu IT summit.

A HALTER and a smile keep the night young.



MADONNA lookalikes, in androgynous versions, line up for the crowd's cheers.

I've got a crush on you...

The best cookies. More of them, in Selecta Cookies and Cream. Because more of the best ingredients go into every Selecta Signature Flavor.

SIGNATURE FLAVORS
MORE of the BEST INGREDIENTS

Selecta

Pusong bigay-todo para sa inyo

MARYANNE Ojeda and Francis Lumen with Franco Limjuico

SID Nueno

MIKE Lu Fencer

WARREN Sy

MTV mush

THERE was a time when MTV was mainly targeted at a very young audience. Not anymore. The music television video station has revolutionized the way music is marketed and sold. Would Madonna still be an icon without MTV? Or would anyone still remember Elvis Presley, the Beatles, or for that matter, rock and roll history?

MTV has even gone into classics, party coverage and mush, as in love songs or what some would term as elevator music. NBC is the station behind MTV Philippines and they're making sure generations present, past and future keep on watching MTV.

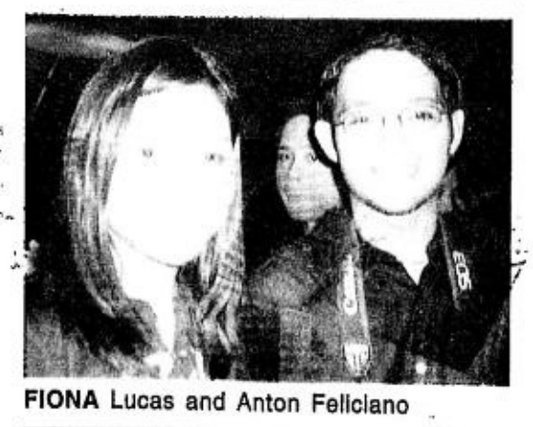
A little trivia: The majority stockholder of MTV worldwide is all of 85 years old, alive and still kicking, listening and watching all kinds of music.

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

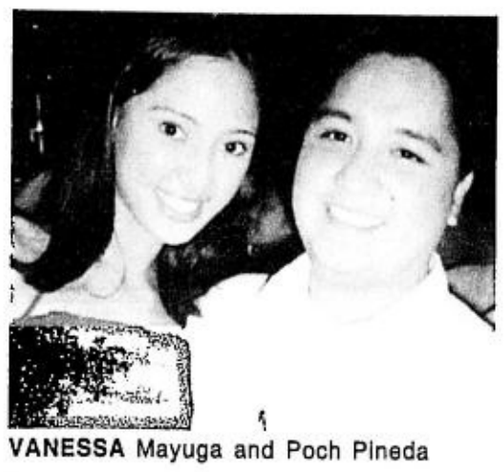
PDI food columnist Clinton Palanca

ARTHUR King



FIONA Lucas and Anton Feliciano

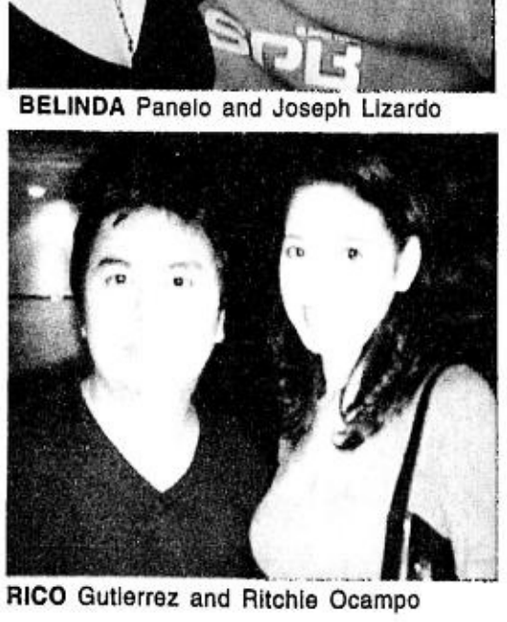
LIECA Carpo (right) and friend



VANESSA Mayuga and Poch Pineda

PAOLO Cabalfin and Christina Tinio

BELINDA Panelo and Joseph Lizardo



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MANAGERIAL

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Under direct secondment by Lamar Management Services

LAMAR MANAGEMENT SERVICES, under assignment to a major development agency, has an immediate vacancy for a Project Officer and an Administrative Officer of a Multi-Sector International Development Program with annual funding of approximately P20M.

The position is based in a prestigious central Makati office, and will report directly to the Fund Coordinator of a leading International Development Agency.

Application is open to suitably qualified and experienced individuals who are highly competent, motivated, diligent, results-oriented and possess strong management abilities as well as excellent "people" skills.

PROJECT OFFICER

Professional Qualifications:
1. Good knowledge of the development needs of the Philippines.
2. Ability to assess and evaluate the developmental impact of small projects and their potential for sustainability.
3. Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing, in English. Knowledge of Filipino and other dialects would be an asset.
4. Willingness to travel in all regions of the country on a regular basis.
5. Knowledge of the country's environmental problems.
6. Knowledge of the status of women and children in the country, their particular roles and responsibilities and their integration in the development process.
7. Ability to work under challenging and demanding circumstances with a sense of urgency and high tolerance for pressure.
8. At least 2 years experience in development work.
9. Working knowledge on Microsoft Wordprocessing and Excel. Knowledge on Access would be an asset.
10. Should be a Teamplayer.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Professional Qualifications:
1. Good knowledge of the development needs of the Philippines.
2. Experience in maintaining a computerized database and management information system (MIS).
3. Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing in English. Knowledge of Filipino and other dialects would be an asset.
4. Experience in office administration work, including clerical and secretarial functions.
5. Ability to work under challenging and demanding circumstances with a sense of urgency and high tolerance for pressure.
6. At least 2 years experience in development work or development-related organization.
7. Working knowledge on Microsoft Wordprocessing, Excel and Access.
8. Should be a Teamplayer.

Application Procedure

This vacancy is on the basis of equal opportunity. All applications shall be treated as strictly confidential.

Interested applicants should submit a detailed resume not later than **30 April 2001**, stating clearly the position applied for.

i. via email to lamar@lamarph.com
ii. via facsimile to: 521-6797

Applications and/or resumes sent via email are preferred written in MS Word format to avoid software incompatibility. Pictures are not required.

Only short-listed applicants shall be notified. Successful candidates shall be expected to assume their duties not later than the **1st of June 2001**.

Our clients, world-class companies from various industries, invite highly qualified candidates for the following positions:

INVENTORY COST CONTROL MANAGER (a high-technology manufacturing company)

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INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING MANAGER (garment manufacturer/exporter)
PRODUCTION MANAGER
QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER

CADD CONSULTANTS (Information Technology company)
I.T. ACCOUNT MANAGERS
HELPDESK ENGINEERS/CUSTOMER CARE ASSISTANTS

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS, FINANCE STAFF, STAFF AUDITOR
EXECUTIVE AND DEPARTMENT SECRETARIES, MARKETING ASSISTANT

PROJECT ASSISTANTS (INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS), STATISTICIAN
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Since these are urgent requirements, please submit resumé to:

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CIGI SIG

At CIGI and SIG, we are committed to satisfying the needs of our customers and meeting their changing demands. Wholly owned by the Global BOC Group, we have a reputation for technical innovation and reliable service making us the leading industrial gas manufacturer and service provider in the Philippines. We hold a strong position in the Philippine economy due in part to its dedicated support to the development of local industries such as semiconductors and steel manufacturing, and also due to the participation from BOC. Both CIGI and SIG are able to provide fast and efficient answers to the needs of the various industries in the Philippines through the transfer of modern gas and related technologies from other BOC Companies around the world.

All of the above are made possible because of our people. Our team consists of highly efficient and dedicated men and women who are equipped with highly specialized expertise in meeting and addressing the various demands and requirements of our clients. They continuously strive to live and demonstrate our values:

A-ccountability,
C-ollaboration,
T-ransparency,
and
S-tretch.

We are in need of a **MARKETING MANAGER** for our Industrial and Special Products (ISP) business. Reporting to the ISP Manager (Philippines) he or she shall have the following initial business agenda:

- Develop and implement a strategic and effective marketing plans that will differentiate CIGI and SIG from its competitors and add value to our Industrial and Special Products assuring that significant growth targets are achieved.
- Develop a system that would enable us to conduct regular customer surveys and market research to ensure that customer needs are met.
- Develop strategic pricing and other relevant policies.
- Implement a global marketing strategy.
- Develop a plan for continuous update of promotional activities to enhance the company's image and customer relationships.

The CIGI/SIG Marketing Manager must have the following qualifications:

- With at least 3 years marketing experience, preferably in a similar or related industry, however, marketing experience gained in other industries may also be considered.
- A graduate of any Engineering or Business course, preferably with MBA or its equivalent in Marketing.
- With excellent oral and written communication skills.
- With working knowledge of Microsoft Office.
- Must have basic working knowledge of Salesmanship, Customer Relations, and Marketing Management.
- Must know how to drive. Holder of valid driver's license and must have an actual driving experience of at least two (2) years.
- Must be based in Manila.
- Must be willing to travel anywhere in the Philippines.

If you think you got what it takes to be our future Marketing Manager, don't hesitate to send, fax, or email your applications to:

RECRUITMENT (CODE: MM/LOB)
Consolidated Industrial Gases, Inc.
Sheridan Street, Mandaluyong City
Fax No.: (63-2) 633-9111
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A highly competitive compensation package plus a very challenging career await the lucky applicant. CUT OFF DATE SHALL BE ON APRIL 30, 2001.

COMPANY PROFILE

ABC STORE

ENLIGHTENED by the vision of being the premiere cellular phone store in the country, ABC Store Inc. was established July 1, 1999.

Engaged in the wholesale and retail of cellular phones, ABC Store aims to provide the public the finest quality cellphones and accessories, and to serve with a personal touch. Technical services such as cost estimation and repairs are but some of the services the company offers.

ABC Store is also intent on constantly updating the public of the newest trends in mobile communications. This goal reflects on the company motto, "To be the preferred supplier of cellphone products that will enhance the lifestyle of our clients."

ABC Store's elements of success
- Trust
- Professional Integrity
- Respect for the Individual
- Teamwork

ADD Force Personnel Services Inc.

ADD Force Personnel Services Inc. is a staffing consultancy services company engaged in supporting business firms by providing highly qualified employees in various positions—from executive, professional/technical and administrative to rank and file. It commenced operations in 1986 and is continuously making its mark in the industry.

ADD Force draws its experience and expertise from its international affiliate Addeco, the world's largest staffing services company based in Europe and the United States. It has offices in 50 countries. It also has a network of branches in Cebu, Davao and Cagayan de Oro aimed at better serving the needs of clients.

ADD Force has supported various multinational companies across all industries with their manpower needs. Notable firms who have benefited from the ADD Force expertise include Intel, Nokia, Lucent Technologies, Ericsson, Philips Semiconductor, ON Semiconductor, and JVC. ADD Force is confident it can service the manpower requirements of any business.

SERVICES

Managed Staffing, Temporary Staffing, Outsourcing Services, Permanent Staffing, and Executive Recruitment

AMA Computer College

AMA Computer College was built upon the dream of the late Amable M. Aguiluz Sr. (AMA) to set up an educational institution which will serve as a legacy to the youth. This dream materialized on October 20, 1980 when his son, Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz founded the AMA Institute of Computer Studies to pioneer computer literacy in the country. In June 1981, the AMA Computer College (AMACC) was born with the launching of the four-year degree course in BS Computer Science. In 1996, AMA spearheaded the establishments of the first telecommunications school in the Philippines – the AMA Telecommunications and Electronics Learning Center (Amatel). In 2000, AMA embarked on its most ambitious and massive expansion program with the opening of 14 computer colleges all over the country. To date, AMA has 41 colleges, 14 ABE branches, 16 co-owned and 95 franchise learning centers.

The AMA Group of Companies was formed in the 1990s when the core business branched out into other types of services in the field of power generation, electronic distribution and equipment supply, infrastructure and construction development, food and trading through the import and export of commercial and industrial products. It has also ventured into the realty and banking business.

Business Trends

FOR the last 20 years, Business Trends has been providing quality staffing ser-

COMPANY/H13

MANAGERIAL

SM SUPERMALLS

THE CITY * CENTERPOINT * MEGAMALL * SOUTHMALL * CITY BACOOR * CITY FAIRVIEW * CITY MANILA

MALL MANAGERS
- Not over 40 years old
- At least three (3) years managerial experience in property development, human resources management, and building administration
- Graduate of business or engineering from a reputable university;
- Excellent communication skills and able to relate well with all levels in the organization

THEATER MANAGERS / ASSISTANT
- Not over 35 years old
- College graduate
- With three years supervisory experience in a service-oriented company and has excellent communication and interpersonal skills

FOOD COURT / BOWLING CENTER MANAGERS
- Not over 35 years old
- Graduate of business course
- At least three (3) years managerial experience in a service-oriented copany
- Can relate to all levels in the organization

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS TENANT RELATIONS OFFICERS RESIDENT ENGINEERS
- Not more than 30 years old
- With one (1) year managerial experience in property development and building administration
- Graduate of Mechanical or Electrical Engineering (preferably licensed)
- Computer literate and with excellent communication skills

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS
- Not over 28 years old
- Computer literate and with excellent communication skills
- Graduate of Accountancy from a reputable university

MARKETING OFFICERS
- Not more than 30 years old
- With one (1) year managerial experience in marketing management, advertising, promotions, and/or marketing research
- Graduate of Communication Arts, Marketing, or any related 4-year course

MARKETING ASSOCIATE (SM Fairview)
- Female, not over 28 years old
- College graduate and with at least three (3) years supervisory experience in a service-oriented company
- With excellent communication and interpersonal skills

DESIGN OFFICERS
- Not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Architecture from a reputable university
- Computer literate and with excellent communication skills

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo:

The Recruitment Division Manager
400 Carlos Palanca St.,
Quiapo, Manila

E-mail : RECRUIT@shoemart.com.ph

VISUAL DISPLAY OFFICERS
- Not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Bachelor of Fine Arts from a reputable university, a major in Interior Design will be an advantage
- With two (2) years related experience in art-related works preferably with a retail business enterprise
- Computer literate and with excellent communication skills

ACCOUNTING OFFICERS / SUPERVISORS
- Not over 30 years old
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- With at least two (2) years supervisory work experience, preferably with auditing background
- Can relate to all levels in the organization
- Computer literate

TREASURY SUPERVISORS / ASSISTANTS
- Not over 28 years old
- College graduate and with at least one (1) year supervisory experience in a service-oriented company
- Computer literate

OPERATIONS SUPERVISORS
- Not over 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year business course
- At least one (1) year expeience in a supervisory level in a service-oriented company
- Can relate to all levels in the organization
- Computer literate

CHIEF PROJECTIONISTS
- Male, 22-28 years old
- College level
- With at least one (1) year supervisory experience
- Can operate projection machine and sound systems

PROJECTIONISTS
- Male, not over 35 years old
- At least high school graduate
- With minimum six months experience and can operate projection machine and sound systems

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS
- Female, not over 25 years old
- Graduate of Accountancy
- Computer literate

PERSONNEL ASSISTANTS
- Not more than 25 years old
- Graduate of Psychology or any related course from a reputable university
- Computer literate and has above average communication skills

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANTS
- Female, not more than 25 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year business course
- With pleasing personality and above average communication skills

LANEMAN / CASHIERS
- Not over 25 years old
- At least 2nd year college
- With pleasing personality

PARK OPERATIONS CREW
(SM Las Piñas & SM Fairview)
- Male or Female, not more than 25 years old
- At least high school graduate
- With pleasing personality and above average communication skills

TICKETSELLERS / USHERS / PORTERS
- Not over 25 years old
- At least 2nd year college
- With pleasant disposition and customer oriented

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Quiapo * Makati * Cubao * Harrison * North Edsa * Sta. Mesa * Ortigas * Las Piñas * Bacoor * Fairview * Manila * Makati * Pampanga * Davao

ACCOUNTING MANAGERS / OFFICERS
- Not more than 30 years old
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- With at least two (2) years work experience in all accounting operations
- Proficient in computer software applications

PERSONNEL MANAGERS
- Female, not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of Behavioral Science, Law, Psychology or any 4-year Management course
- With extensive experience in personnel management
- Must be able to build and maintain professional relations with people in the organization
- Willing to work on weekends & holidays

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS
- Not over 28 years old
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Industrial Engineering graduate
- With at least one year experience in the design monitoring and evaluation of accounting systems and procedures
- Supervisory experience in related industry will be an advantage
- Proficient in computer software applications

OPERATIONS PLANNING & CONTROL ANALYSTS
- Not over 28 years old
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Industrial Engineering graduate
- With at least (2) years supervisory experience in planning, formulation and implementation of store operation policies and related procedures & other activities
- Proficient in computer software applications

DESIGN OFFICERS
- Female, not over 27 years old
- Graduate of BS Architecture
- With exposure / knowledgeable in AutoCAD

SELLING MANAGERS / SUPERVISORS
- Female, not over 32 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- Articulate and can relate well with people
- With at least one (1) year experience in the same capacity
- With experience in retail operations, food chain or sales

COUNTER / CHECKING MANAGERS / SUPERVISORS
- Female, not over 32 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- With at least one (1) year experience in counter or credit card transactions in the same capacity
- Above average communication skills

WAREHOUSE MANAGERS / SUPERVISORS
- Male, not over 35 years old
- Graduate of Business Administration, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering
- With extensive experience in warehousing and other related functions
- Should have adequate skills to handle a male dominated department

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS
- Male, not over 35 years old
- Graduate of Business Administration, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering
- With at least three (3) years work experience (not necessarily licensed) in building administration
- With excellent verbal & written communication skills
- Can relate well with people at different levels in the organizations

Davao applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to: The Recruitment Division Manager, 400 Carlos Palanca St., Quiapo, Manila, Metro Manila and Pampanga applicants may also apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

E-mail: RECRUIT@shoemart.com.ph

The industry leader in manufacturing biscuits (Monde Nissin) and instant Noodles (Lucky Me!) invites you to be part of privileged team!!!

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES!!!!

SHIFT ENGINEER
- Laguna-based
- Male, at least 25 years old
- Mechanical Engineering graduate
- Preferably with 2-3 years experience in Plant Utilities Operation
- Good leadership and management skills
- Computer-literate
- Good working knowledge in refrigeration, boiler & power center operations
- With knowledge in chillers and refrigerator compressors

Training Associates (2)
- Makati and Laguna-based
- Male/Female, at least 25 years old
- Behavioral Science or BS-IE graduate
- With at least 2 years training experience at supervisory level
- With knowledge in TNA, TQM and different behavioral training programs
- Computer-literate

International Business Associate
- Male, Business couse graduate
- With brand marketing experience in a manufacturing company
- Fluent in Mandarin
- Computer-literate and willing to travel

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
- Laguna-based
- 24-28 years of age
- Graduate of Engineering, preferably Chemical or Mechanical
- With at least two (2) years supervisory experience in a food manufacturing company
- Computer-literate
- Preferably with plant maintenance background

Logistics Section Head
- Calnta-based
- Engineering grads preferably in Industrial Engineering w/ units in Business and Economics
- Must have at least 5 yrs supervisory experience in any of the following functions: Distribution Center Operations in a large consumer co. and/or Logistics third party services provider to a large consumer co. handling at least 200 sku's and 500 pallet dispatch.
- Knowledgeable in the use of computers and various operational systems and in transportation operations (including cost analysis, gov't rules and policies related to transpo and local geographical knowledge).
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications

Qualified candidates are requested to send their resume with a 2x2 picture to:
MONDE NISSIN CORPORATION 22/F 6750 Office Tower, Ayala Avenue, 1200 Makati City
754-8139/8140 or e-mail: hr@mondenissin.com

A MULTINATIONAL HOLDING company engaged in investments is currently seeking qualified applicants to fill up positions as:

CUSTOMER RELATIONS OFFICER

Qualification:
- ✓ Male or female, 25 to 45 years old
- ✓ Knowledgeable in foreign exchange, stocks, treasury or commodity trading
- ✓ Established affiliation with high net worth individuals and institutions
- ✓ Ability to speak Chinese an advantage

Kindly forward your application letter, resumé and recent 2x2 photo to:

The Marketing Manager
Unit 907B West Tower
Philippine Stock Exchange Building
Exchange Road, Ortigas Centre
Pasig City 1600
or
Email: hantec@edsamail.com.ph

We will only reply to qualified applicants.

Business Trends has over 20 Years experience in the recruitment industry & is now a part of Kelly Services Inc. - a Fortune 500 global staffing company with over 1800 offices around the world. We are now looking for top professionals for our various clients.

BRANCH MANAGER for a Health and Fitness company

Female, 30 years old and below. Graduate of an Allied Medical Science preferred. With experience in a similar industry, hands-on experience on operations, sales and marketing. Pleasing personality and physically appealing.

BOOKKEEPER

Female, 26 years old and below. Graduate of Accounting. At least 2 years experience in a similar capacity. Knowledgeable in trial balance, financial statement preparation and analysis. Computer literate, knowledge in an accounting software an advantage.

MEDICAL ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST

Female, not over 35 years old, Must be a Registered Nurse with at least one year relevant work experience in a hospital. Computer literate

NURSE ON DUTY

Must be a Registered Nurse, Computer literate, willing to work on a shifting schedule, and committed to service excellence and quality.

TELEPHONE OPERATOR

Female, graduate of a 4 year course. The Candidate must be warm and accommodating with above average verbal communication skills, able to handle stressful situations constructively and productively, and committed to service excellence and quality.

Please send your resumés to:

Business Trends Philippines
1603 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 631-31-09, E-mail: btphils@pacific.net.ph
Website: www.businesstrends.com.sg

** We will only reply to qualified applicants*

THE JLF GROUP

We are looking for dynamic, motivated and goal-oriented people to join our team!

JLF ORGANIZATION

The country's leading Concert and Event Production group. The force behind some of the sold-out major concerts in recent memory, including Martin Nievera's XVII, and Ai Ai delas Alas' Abuse Me, both at the Folk Arts Theater, among others.

Account Executive
Female, College Grad, confident and aggressive. Will be going on field, getting prospective clients such as campuses and various corporations, who might be interested in doing events, concerts, etc.

Marketing Assistant
College Grad, Pref. Marketing or Mass Comm. Major or with Marketing background. Should have excellent grasp of written and spoken English. Friendly and motivated, will be speaking and coordinating with various companies, obtaining sponsors for the company's concerts/events. Should be able to work under pressure and under minimum supervision.

Executive Assistant
Preferably with minimum 1 to 2 years experience. College Grad. Has good English communications skills, willing to work late, can work under pressure and with minimum supervision. Willing to travel.

Media Planner
Minimum 1 - 2 years experience, having good English communication skills. Has strong sense of responsibility and can work with minimum supervision. Will be in charge of planning and implementing publicity and PR for various events/concerts. Willing to work late hours and under pressure.

Corporate Communications Assistant
Minimum 1-2 years experience, College grad, pref. Major in Journalism, Mass Comm. Has strong English communication skills, both in writing and speaking. A team player, willing to work late, under pressure. Will be in charge of drafting corporate correspondence. Should possess good computer typing skills.

Production Manager
With 1-2 years experience in professional concert TV production. Having a strong sense of responsibility and reliability. Will be in charge of coordinating various productions, from setup to pullout. Willing to travel, and can work under pressure.

Production / Personal Assistant
With at least 1 year experience, or willing to undergo training. Well motivated and a strong team player, willing to work late and work under pressure. Will be assisting in various concert/event productions or artists. Should be willing to travel.

Road Manager
Must have good person to person and communication skills. Willing to undergo training, have flexible hours and work late. Will be accompanying assigned artist to different productions, and will be in charge of the artist's schedules, bookings, rehearsals, etc. Must have strong sense of responsibility and reliability and can work under pressure. Willing to travel.

Telemarketers
Must have pleasing personalities that can be projected over the phone. Should have good English communications skills and flexible working hours. Will be marketing events concepts to various sponsors companies.

Spoon by COBY'S Music Cafe

Coby's Music Cafe is a theme bar/restaurant located at the heart of Manila, where the best food, music and friends come together! Club Spoon in Alabang's premiere dance club, located at the Alabang Town Centre, it is the venue for the hottest parties in the south!

General Manager
With minimum 5 years experience managing food/restaurant or bar establishment. Must have good communication skills, strong team player. Will be in charge of operations, and will oversee all aspects of management.

Assistant Manager
With minimum 2 years experience managing food establishment/bar. Should have good communication skills, willing to undergo training, and willing to work late hours under pressure. Will function in a support role to the manager, and will also oversee all aspects of store operation. Should possess a strong sense of reliability and responsibility.

Service Crew
Male/Female, residing in Alabang/Muntilpa or Manila area. 18 to 25 yrs old, having flexible time schedules. Should be willing to work late and undergo training.

Bartender
Minimum 2 years experience, having good English communication skills.

Cook
Minimum 2/3 years experience, knowledgeable in various cuisines, willing to undergo training, team player and has flexible time schedule.

Receptionist
With pleasing looks and personality. Should have good English communication skills, friendly and outgoing, willing to work late. Preferably with previous experience or willing to undergo training.

Guest Relations Officer
With pleasing looks and personality. Preferably with previous experience working in a restaurant/bar.

PR and Communications Assistant
Minimum 2 years experience. Mass Comm/Journalism Major. Will be in charge of conceptualizing and implementing PR campaigns for the establishments, as well as drafting corporate communications. Should be proficient in business letters and have good computer typing skills.

Cashier
Minimum 1 year experience as cashier, strong team player, willing to work late hours.

Interested parties may send their letter of application, comprehensive resume with recent ID photo to:
THE HR MANAGER
The JLF Group
1403A Philippine Stock Exchange Centre East Tower
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center Pasig City 1600
FAX: 6347773
email: jlforg@mydestiny.net

PSEC Bonpres

MANAGERIAL

SM GROUP OF RETAIL COMPANIES

Ace Hardware * Health & Beauty * Baby Company * Hardware Workshop Family Drugstore * Signature Lines * Surplus Shop * Super SM Hypermart Supplies Station * Our Home * Discount Club * Bingo Mart

MANAGERS
(Store Operations / Counter / Checking)
- Female, not more than 35 years old
- College graduate and with experience in retail operations for counter and Checking must have at least one year experience in counter and credit card transactions
- Must possess strong leadership skills to effectively direct a team of store personnel
- Will be responsible for personnel management, customer relations, inventory control, merchandise display, security measures and housekeeping of the assigned branch

SUPERVISORS
(Store Operations / Counter / Checking)
- Female, not more than 28 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- Will be responsible for assisting the Manager in specific aspects of store operations such as personnel supervision, merchandise display and stock monitoring of the assigned branch

BUYERS
- Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of any business course, preferably with purchasing work experience in retail set-up

SALES COORDINATOR
- With extensive experience as Construction Foreman
- Responsibilities include advising the customers in areas of construction and home improvements such as plumbing, electrical, carpentry and painting

TRAINING MANAGERS
- Not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of Behavioral Science or any business course
- With at least two (2) years related work experience
- Articulate and can relate well with people at different levels in the organization
- Knowledgeable in the conduct of needs analysis, design, implementation and evaluation of training programs and employee activities

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISORS
- Female, not over 28 years old
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- With at least two (2) years experience in a supervisory capacity
- Will be responsible in performing accounting functions which include inventory management, audit, general accounting, preparation and review of financial statements and tax matters

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISORS
- College graduate, not more than 28 years old
- Must have 3-5 years experience in receiving, dispatching and inventory control procedures in a retail set-up
- Must have adequate leadership skills to handle a male-dominated environment

LICENSED PHARMACISTS
- Female, not more than 28 years old
- Successful candidates will be responsible in the preparation of galencial and compounds in dispensing prescription and sales monitoring

PHARMACY ASSISTANTS
- Female, not more than 25 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year related course

ACCOUNTING/PERSONNEL/TREASURY/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- Female, not more than 25 years old
- Graduate of Commerce, Accountancy, Behavioral Science, Psychology or any related courses

SELLING ASSISTANTS/CASHIERS/ TELEPHONE OPERATORS/CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANTS
- Female, not more than 25 years old
- College graduate
- With pleasing personality

Submit resumé with recent photo to:

SM
HR Affiliates
SM Head Office - Annex
400 Carlos Palanca St.,
Quiapo, Manila

E-mail : hraff@shoemart.com.ph

JDH MARKETING

iDS Logistics

JDH (Philippines), Inc.

We are a proud member of the Li & Fung Distribution Group - the leading provider of fast moving consumer and industrial products in the Pan Asian region.

In the Philippines, we are the No. 1 Distributor of Fast-Moving Consumer Goods representing many well-known leading International and local brands. As we embark on significant expansion plans, we invite you to be our "Partners for Growth" in our rapidly growing and exciting Company.

We have immediate requirements for:

Network Operations Manager
Network Systems Analyst
Key Account Managers
Area Managers
Brand Managers
Assistant Brand Managers
Company Nurse
Sales Representatives
HR Associates (preferably with knowledge in compensation management, payroll administration, job evaluation and labor law)

Successful candidates can expect positive career development and competitive compensation and benefits package commensurate to performance.

If you believe you can face the challenges of competition, send your comprehensive resumé to:

Human Resources Management Department
JDH (Philippines), Inc.
2/F IDC Building, E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue
Ugong Norte, Quezon City
Email: tsbaltazar@ph.lfdis.com
Fax No. 636-3155, 638-5483

ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CALLED FOR INTERVIEW.

A member of the Li & Fung Distribution Group

MSI Digiland

MSI-Digiland (Phils.), Inc. is a regional distributor of computer hardware and software products. Our product line includes Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Apple, Cisco and Oracle, among others.

Be with an Industry Leader...

ASST. SALES & MARKETING MANAGER - Will be entrusted with teams of marketing and sales personnel. He/she shall provide direction to the whole group in all aspects of sales/marketing operations. Candidates should have at least 2 years relevant experience in a similar capacity.

PRODUCT MANAGERS (1-PC, 1-HP Supplies, 1-UPS) - Shall be responsible for overall product management for his/her assigned product. Candidates should be marketing professionals with at least 2 years solid background gained from the IT industry.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR - He/she shall be in charge of Service Engineers and Technicians in providing excellent technical services to clients which involve troubleshooting, repair and/or maintenance of IT products. Desired candidate should have at least 1 year relevant experience obtained from an IT company.

SALES OFFICERS - Shall be tasked to engage in sales of IT products. Their activities shall involve maintaining the productivity of the sales channels, developing prospective clients and establishing a strong appeal for products and services. Preferably with at least 1 year IT sales experience.

PRODUCT ENGINEERS - Shall specialize in the Apple product line. They shall be involved in the conduct of product studies/evaluations and technical trainings. We are looking for those with knowledge in graphics and webpage design/programming with at least 1 year extensive experience.

SECRETARY - Will provide administrative support for the Manager. This will involve handling his itinerary, safekeeping sensitive files, efficient scheduling of appointments/meetings and other secretarial functions.

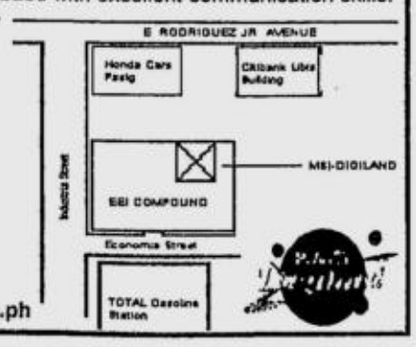
WAREHOUSE COORDINATORS - In charge of the efficient handling of merchandise. This shall include the proper receiving of shipments, preparation of deliveries, inspection of merchandise prior to release and other functions aimed at ensuring smooth warehousing operations. Should have at least 1 year experience obtained from a distribution firm.

TELESALES/CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF - Successful candidates shall ensure utmost customer satisfaction by efficiently handling all clients' inquiries or requests. We welcome fresh graduates of any 4-year course, computer-literate, and imbued with excellent communication skills.

Interested parties may send their letter of application, comprehensive resume' with recent ID photo to:

THE HR MANAGER
MSI-Digiland (Phils.), Inc.
Topy II Bldg., 3 Economia St.
Libis, Quezon City

Fax : 638-4932
Email: dphr@msi-digiland.com.ph



ECOLAB

We are a subsidiary of **ECOLAB, INC.**, a U.S. based multinational company and the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing and maintenance products and services for the hospitality, institutional and industrial markets. We are currently in search of highly qualified candidates to support our growing Philippines operations for the following position:

[redacted] Accountant

Reporting directly to the Finance Head, you will be mainly responsible for the handling and costing of all inventories. You will also be monitoring all costs and inventory accounts including variances. Additionally, you will be tasked to handle various reportorial requirements not limited to your area of responsibility.

You must be a CPA, in your mid 20's to early 30's, with experience in cost accounting particularly in a computerized environment. You must be flexible and willing to work extra hours with minimum supervision. Knowledge in ACCPAC-windows based is a definite advantage.

An attractive compensation and benefit package will be offered to the right candidate. This is an urgent requirement. Please forward your comprehensive resume, a recent photograph, stating current and expected salary no later than **April 27, 2001** to:

ECOLAB PHILIPPINES, INC.
2/F Alabang Business Tower
1216 Acacia Avenue, Madrigal Business Park
Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City 1780
c/o Admin Services
or send your resume online to epladmin@ecolab.com

Our rapidly expanding organization is looking for the following ...

Sales & Marketing Manager
We expect the candidate to be well abreast with the latest development in digital pre-press and grand-format outdoor advertising. Should be a key part of a team to develop new accounts, maintain relationship with existing accounts, establish principal sales contacts and implement sales objectives and strategies for our range of services.
A degree in BS Business Management, BS Marketing or BS Mass Communication; Minimum of 2-years experience working for reputable advertising agencies or corporate marketing; Intensive experience in brand building, marketing strategies and sales analysis; Excellent written and oral communication skills.

Account Executives
We expect the candidate to have a proven consistent sales track record on the following fields: a) graphic design, b) 3D-computer generated imagery (CGI) for Architecture and Interior Design, c) color separation and d) outdoor advertising printing services. Excellent client liaison, motivated and focused. Must be ready for field work.
Minimum of 2-years experience working as Account Executive from reputable companies; College graduate; Must consistently meet sales quota.
FYI: Candidate must indicate field of expertise.

Production Trainee
We expect the candidate to have on-job trainee exposure in time and motion study, statistical quality control (S-QC), material requirement planning (MRP), inventory control management, workflow-based improvement, logistics and distribution. Experience working under shop floor stress condition, tight deadline, troubleshooter and problem solver.
A degree in BS Industrial Engineering, BS Management Engineering, BS Business Management or BS Manufacturing Engineering; 20-23 years old; preferably male. Excellent analytical skill in problem solving; MS Word, Excel, Access literate.

Computer Graphic Artist
Candidate must possess ravishing creative talent for a) print advertising and print production b) 3D-Computer Generated Imagery (CGI), good creative judgment and color harmony.
A degree in Bachelor of Fine Arts; a) Experience working in a creative shop or print production is an advantage. Proficiency in Photoshop, Freehand, Illustrator, QuarkXpress and Coreldraw b) Candidate for 3D-C.G.I. must be proficient with AutoCad, 3D StudioMax, Maya 2.5 or 3.0, Softimage 3.9 / XSI. Experience in rendering walkthroughs for Architectural application is highly appreciated.

send your application to:
Suite 306 Jollibee Center
San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City, Philippines

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:

INQUIRER

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB MARKET

Max's RESTAURANT

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

For its continuous expansion program

One of the leading restaurants in the country that has kept the legendary "Sarap to the Bones" delicious Filipino tradition has career opportunities for its soon to open branches in Metro Manila and in the provinces.

BRANCH MANAGERS

- Graduates of BSHRM or related courses;
- Minimum of 5 years working experience; 3 years in supervisory level.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- Male/Female, at least 23 years old;
- Preferably graduates of BSHRM, BSBA, BSC or related courses;
- Computer literate (Excel, Powerpoint, Word).

DINING SUPERVISORS/ASSISTANT DINING SUPERVISORS

- Male/Female, at least 25 years old;
- Preferably graduates of BSHRM, BSBA, BSC or other related courses;
- Minimum 2 years working experience as Dining Supervisor or Captain Waiter.

KITCHEN SUPERVISORS

- Male/Female, at least 25 years old;
- Preferably graduates of BS Food and Nutrition, HRM or other related courses;
- Have at least 2 years working experience; 1 year as Asst. Kitchen Supervisor;
- Have knowledge in menu planning, food costing and inventory management.

BANQUET AND SALES COORDINATORS

- Male/Female, 19 to 26 years old;
- College graduates, preferably of BSHRM, Tourism, PR, BSBA, Mass Communication;
- Must have a pleasant personality and above-average English communication skills.

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- Preferably female, not more than 25 years old;
- At least 1 year experience in bookkeeping;
- Computer literate (Word, Excel, Powerpoint).

BOOKKEEPERS

- College graduates with 12 units in Accounting;
- Have experience in restaurant setting.

Interested parties may apply in person, hand carry, mail their application letters with their resumé, xerox copy of their transcript of records and I.D. photo to:

The Recruitment Section
Human Resources Department
Max's Training Center
Near corner Roxas Blvd. and A. Guarra St., Parañaque City
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph (Subject: MAX's)

Goldilocks®

THE TOP BAKESHOP IN THE COUNTRY IS LOOKING FOR GOOD CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

AREA MANAGER - Will be tasked in the direction and supervision of stores assigned in his/her area, ensuring profitability and operations efficiency. Graduate of any business related course, with at least 5 years managerial experience in food service, good interpersonal relationships, excellent communication and analytical skills.

HR OFFICER - Knowledgeable in all facets of HR. Will be responsible for recruitment, organization review and design, training, employee relations, and compensation and benefits. Graduate of BS Psychology or any related course.

MIS OFFICER - To handle the system integration, data communications, network, maintenance and data recovery and overall information systems management. Should have exposure in SQL, POS, BAAN and experience in system administration.

AIRCON/REFRIGERATION TECHNICIAN

ELECTRICIAN

Mail your resumé to:

MANPOWER PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
4th Floor, RRI Building, 811 S. Laurel Street
Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
E-mail your resumé at: misgold@goldilocks.com.ph

We are Looking for Dynamic Individuals.

Are you into. **Cellphones and Especially Customer Care?**
Then you must be the person we are looking for!

ABC STORE, INC. Is one of the Philippines' premier Cellular Phone Dealers. Mainly engaged in the wholesale and retail of Cellular Phones, ABC STORE, INC. aims to provide the public the best service any cellular phone retailer and wholesaler can provide.

We are currently in need of:

Store Managers - 2 (Manila Area Branches)
Cellphone Technicians - 4 (Manila Area Branches)
Account Executives - 4 (Wholesale Transactions)
Customer Care Associate (Technical Services)
Accountants/Bookkeepers - 3 (Branch & Warehouse)

store incorporated

G/F Pearl Lane, Virramall, Greenhills
7275014 Please Look for Josie or Jasmin
or Fax your Resumé via 7275015.

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send resumes to:
K2 Interactive Inc.
10/F Orient Square
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City 1605 Philippines
or to
youneedme@k2i2.com

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ok2move
ok2groove
ok2stay
ok2play
ok2fly
ok2try
try?

yup, we're hiring.
www.k2i2.com
63(2) 687.5183
63(2) 631.9297

Systems Administrator

Manage and maintain computer systems and network services including email, news, proxy, firewall, web and DNS
Assess malfunctions of software and hardware applications for the purpose of determining appropriate actions to maintain computer network applications
Install computer software and hardware applications for networking operations
Provide technical support for all UNIX and Windows NT servers

Copywriter

Graduate of Masscom or Journalism
With relevant experience
Willing to work on a per project basis

Lastly, you must be able to tolerate rowdy **Rogue Spear** tournaments.

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOB ONLINE
VISIT US AT
www.inquirer.net

Standard Marking Systems

an established computer reselling firm challenges you to give the best you've got as we seek highly qualified individuals for the following positions:

A. CORPORATE SALES MANAGER(ORTIGAS)

- Must come from an existing reputable IT Company with at least 3 years experience in the same field
- Able to produce at least Php3.5M monthly individual quota
- Consistently meet monthly group sales quota
- Able to assemble, motivate and lead the corporate Sales Force effectively

B. TECHNICAL MANAGER(QC)

- Male/Female, 30 yrs. old & above
- At least 3 yrs. experience in supervisory level position, related to computer service oriented work
- Must have extensive knowledge and experience in computer hardware such as hubs, routers, switches, servers, workstations and notebook computers.
- Must have extensive knowledge and experience in Novell, Microsoft Exchange, SQL servers, Win2000
- Able to lead the technical team to meet the company's expectations

C. ACCOUNT MANAGERS(ORTIGAS)

- Graduate of any 4-yr. course from a reputable school (De La Salle, Ateneo, UST, UP) - New graduates are welcome to apply
- With 2 years experience in marketing IT hardware products
- With excellent PR and communication skills; can handle client presentations

D. FIELD TECHNICAL ENGINEERS(QC)

- Male, 25 yrs. and above, with at least 2 years field work experience in a similar capacity an advantage
- Must have working knowledge in networking, troubleshooting and repairing of notebook computers, clone and branded servers, and other peripherals

E. GRAPHICS ARTIST(ORTIGAS)

- Highly creative and able to meet deadlines
- Proficient in various PC graphics applications (Photoshop, CorelDraw, PM65)
- Have had previous works published in various print media for marketing and promotional purposes of an IT based company.

F. CUSTOMER SERVICE COORDINATORS(QC)

- At least 25 yrs old, must be able to speak fluent English and Filipino
- Must be able to handle clients' queries professionally
- Must have previous experience in a similar or equivalent position

G. MARKETING COORDINATOR(ORTIGAS)

- Must be able to create and implement marketing plans for the company
- Must be able to coordinate Marketing/Promotional projects (exhibits, sales, etc.) with various corporate associates

H. ENCODER(QC)

- Female, Must have typing speeds of at least 50 wpm with 95% accuracy
- Must be very fluent in English; consistent, accommodating

I. COMPANY DRIVER(QC)

- Married, very familiar with Metro Manila roads
- Must have come from a reputable company
- Must be willing to work extended hours

Qualified applicants can send their comprehensive resumes with 2x2 ID pictures starting Monday, 23 April 2001 at:

2009 Jollibee Plaza
Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Twinhead
The Notebook Specialist

ORIENTAL ASSURANCE CORPORATION

A leading and dynamic non-life insurance company urgently needs the following:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ PAYROLL MASTER

- Male or female, not more than 30 years old
- College graduate
- At least one (1) year experience with payroll
- Computer literate
- With pleasing personality and work attitude
- With good communication skills (oral and written)
- Trustworthy and adheres to confidentiality

Submit your application letter, comprehensive resumé, transcript of records, NBI clearance, and latest 2x2 ID picture on or before **April 24 (Tuesday), 2001** to:

ADMINISTRATION
5/F OAC Building, #27 San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

---

inq7.net

An Inquirer and GMA Network Company

We are currently hiring

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

QUALIFICATIONS

- ☑ College Graduate
- ☑ At least 2 years experience in sales and/or advertising
- ☑ 23-30 years old
- ☑ Dynamic and aggressive
- ☑ Results-oriented
- ☑ Excellent communication skills in English and Tagalog
- ☑ Preferably with broad contacts in advertising and marketing
- ☑ Must be a team worker

We offer competitive salary and benefits for qualified applicants.

Applicants must submit their letter of application and resumé with 2x2 ID picture to:

HUMAN RESOURCES (CODE: SALES)
INQ7 Interactive, Inc.
9F Rufino Building, Ayala Avenue
corner Herrera Street, Makati City
Email: jobs@inq7.net

An established company engaged in industrial/consumer products needs competent individuals for:

SALES EXECUTIVE

- ➢ Male, not more than 30 years old
- ➢ Good oral communication & interpersonal skills
- ➢ College graduate with selling experience is an asset
- ➢ Result-oriented, honest, self-starter with minimum supervision

SECRETARY

- ➢ Female, single, not more than 28 years old
- ➢ Good communication and typing skills
- ➢ Preferably college graduate with work experience

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- ➢ Female, single, not more than 28 years old
- ➢ Exposed to payroll/receivables/payables
- ➢ College graduate with work experience
- ➢ Computer literate, well organized, neat handwriting

SALES CLERK

- ➢ Female, single, not more than 30 years old
- ➢ At least 2 years college level
- ➢ Presentable, pleasing personality

We offer competitive compensation package and growth opportunities to successful candidates.

Qualified applicants are invited to apply personally during office-hours (Mon-Sat) at 259 Villalobos St., Quiapo, Manila (near Plaza Miranda) or you may call at Tel no. 733-6265; 733-6279, look for Hannah.

MANAGERIAL

CHIKKA.COM Regalo.com BidSHOT www.bidshot.com

UNIX C
- Good grasp of networking in TCP/IP.
- Proficient in C programming preferably in the UNIX platform.
- Adequate knowledge in multi-threaded programming.

SYSTEMS ADMINIS
- High comfort level working with different UNIX variants.
- Familiarity with Cisco networking equipment is a plus.
- Good grasp of Internet technologies and TCP/IP.
- Must be willing to work in shifts.

WEB DEVELOPERS

Candidates for this position must be proficient in the following languages:
- ASP
- MS SQL Server 7
- HTML
- Visual Basic
- CGI & Perl
- Experience in Cold Fusion web development is an advantage

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MTG

MARINE TECHNOLOGY GROUP
IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

SALES & SERVICE ENGINEERS
Male or Female must not be more than 35 years of age
Mechanical or Electrical Engineering graduate
Must be aggressive, personable and competent in communication skills
Computer Literate. Willing to travel anywhere in the country.

ACCOUNTANTS
Male or Female not more than 30 yrs. of age
BS Accountancy graduate, with good communication skills
Computer Literate and with pleasing personality

ACCOUNT MANAGERS
Male or Female, must not be more than 35 years of age
Graduate of any 4 yr. Course
Must be hard-working & willing to travel anywhere in the country

RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Male or Female must not be more than 30 years of age
Graduate of any 4 yr. Course
Must be familiar w/ different aspect of research and data gathering

CUSTOMER SERVICE / TECH'L STAFF
Male or Female, must not be more than 30 years of age
Graduate of any 4 yr. Course and Computer Literate.
Must be hard-working and dependable

REQUIREMENTS:
- Comprehensive Resume' with recent 2"x 2" Colored Photo
- Transcript of Records
- Certificates of previous employment (if any)
- Letter of Application with the position applying for

Please send your resume' or apply in person at:
MARINE TECHNOLOGY CENTER
Aduana cor., Arzobispo Sts., Intramuros, City of Manila
Look for Ms. Mabelle Yenko
Tel. 527-9048 / Fax 527-9047
email: myenko@yahoo.com

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Beauty Consultant
With the following Qualification:

- **FILIPINO**
- **18 years Old & Above**
- **Must Purchase the Showcase of Literature Kit**

Apply at
Glorietta Activity Center "Career Fair 2001"
on April 23-25 from 10AM to 8PM
or
at Mary Kay Philippines
La Fuerza Compound
2241 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Look for Gayle Guerrero of Fortenberry Headquarters

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C.M. Recto, Manila

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- **A holder of at least any of the following degrees:**
  Master in Business Administration
  Master in Business Management
  Master in Management
  Master in Commerce
- **Preferably CPA,**
- **Oriented in Information Technology,**
- **Has extensive exposure in the Academic Setting and**
- **Of good moral standing.**

PROFESSORS

INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES:
English
Filipino
Hotel & Restaurant Management
Mass Communication
Natural Science
Political Science
Psychology
Social Sciences
Tourism

INSTITUTE OF COMMERCE:
Accountancy
Computer Science
Management
Marketing & Finance
Mathematics

OTHERS:
Guidance Counselors
Law Librarian
Research Assistant
Statistician

Bring your resumé, application letter and other pertinent papers and visit the **Human Resource Development Center** at the Second Floor, Annex Building or call at 734-8931 to 39 local 325/103, via e-mail hrd@sscrmnl.edu.ph Look for **Ms. Iris R. Carnice** or **Ms. Shirley A. Claro**.

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TRAINING SPECIALIST
Designs, organizes, conducts, and evaluates management and sales training programs based on identified development needs of the company's agency force.
- Graduate of any Social Science or Human Resources Management related course;
- With 1 to 2 years experience as Training Facilitator of sales programs;
- Conversant with training needs analysis and training program development;
- With excellent communication and interpersonal relations skills; and
- Proficient in the use of computer softwares for training presentations.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST
In-charge of market research and product management projects, including maintenance of existing products and services to ensure continued stability to market needs.
- Graduate of Marketing, Mass Communications or other related four-year course;
- With extensive experience in market research and/or product management;
- Ideally well-versed in life insurance principles and operations; and
- With excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

ANALYSTS/PROGRAMMERS
Study, plan, develop and implement application systems/packages based on users' requirements for continuous improvement in various business operations.
- Graduate of Computer Science, Engineering, or any business related course;
- Well-versed in structured systems analysis, design and programming, gained from 1 to 3 years involvement in full cycle systems development projects as Systems Analyst or Analyst/Programmer;
- Proficient in COBOL and/or Powerbuilder, and knowledgeable in CTCS, DB2, Oracle, and/or any web-based technologies; and
- With good communication skills and strong customer service orientation.

COMPANY NURSE
Assists in the administration and coordination of medical exams to employees, applicants and other clients of the company.
- Licensed Registered Nurse or Radiologic Technician preferably female;
- With 1 to 2 years work experience in medical clinic administration and X-ray machine operations; and
- With good communication skills and excellent service orientation.

CLAIMS INVESTIGATOR
Provides complete and accurate investigation information for the processing of insurance applications and benefits, to safeguard corporate assets and protect the interest of policyholders.
- Bachelor's degree, preferably with law units;
- At least two (2) years work experience as an Investigator;
- With good people skills and excellent written and verbal abilities;
- Must be computer literate, knows how to drive and willing to go on field assignments, preferably male.

LIFE INSURANCE AGENTS
Prospect for clients, sell life insurance, and provide post-sale servicing to clients.
- College graduate, with at least 2 years work experience with successful track record, preferably gained in the financial services industry;
- Must possess good interpersonal skills; excellent communication skills, and sound analytical skills;
- Must have good judgment and comprehension, confident disposition, and a positive outlook; and
- Proficient in MS Office applications.

AGENCY LEADERS
Responsible for planning, directing and controlling the operations of the sales team to meet or exceed annual sales targets.
- College graduate; with at least 2 years business experience with successful track record in sales or customer service environment;
- Previous supervisory experience is required;
- Must be able to motivate and lead a team of sales professional to meet assigned targets;
- Must be entrepreneurial-oriented; and preferably computer literate.

Successful candidates can look forward to above-industry compensation package. Interested parties may personally submit, send by post, fax or e-mail applications, comprehensive resumé with recent 2x2 photo, and transcript of records to:

RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT SECTION
Level 8, IL Corporate Centre
Corporate Avenue corner Commerce Avenue
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. No. 771-1818 loc. 3613/3612; Fax No. 771-1907
E-mail Address: careers@insular.com.ph
Visit us at http://www.insular.com.ph

VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL, a Christian Child Development Organization, is in need of the following staff:

Human Resource Specialist - with expertise and extensive experience in HR administration, management systems and organizational development.

Admin & Finance Supervisor - CPA, has expertise on financial management and demonstrates excellent administration skills.

Executive Assistant to the Country Director - proficient in corporate communications and secretarial services; has expertise in MIS.

Utility Clerk - very good driving skills; can do basic mechanical troubleshooting; can do messengerial and general clerical office tasks; has strong initiative.

All applicants must be Evangelical Christians, willing to serve in a ministry for children.

Please send application immediately to: **Ms. Dolly Prado-Operations Manager**
155 SBA Building Kamias Ext., Quezon City
ccabanlit@ph.ci.org

For more information, please call 9297060 or 9297063.

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* 26 to 45 years old
* Has experience in supervising or managing a group of people
* Candidates must have a Masteral Degree or equivalent management experience
* He or she must have at least 2 years experience in the academe, or project, sales and marketing management

SALES/MARKETING OFFICERS
* 20 to 30 years old
* College graduate with good communication skills
* With experience in sales or marketing
* Willing to be trained in IT

IT TRAINING SPECIALISTS
* 20 to 40 years old
* B.S. Comp. Sci., Comp. Eng. graduate or any computer related course
* With good communication skills
* Knowledge in IT applications or any IT specialized field

ACCOUNTANTS/ INTERNAL AUDITOR
* Female, 20 to 30 years old
* Accounting graduate, preferably computer literate
* Willing to be trained in various accounting software
* CPA license an advantage

SERVICE OFFICERS
* Female 20 to 30 years old
* College graduate with good communication skills
* Willing to be trained in Information Technology
* Preferably with background in administrative work

CORPORATE OFFICE: HRD 2/F Security Bank Ortigas Building, 228 Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, MM • Tel. No. 727-0401 Fax 722-9490 or E-mail us at personnel@informatics.net.ph

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- Aggressive, assertive, analytical, with excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Must have flexibility in handling job stress, pressures and meeting very tight deadlines.

Interested parties may send their application letter with their resumé, xerox copy of transcript of records and I.D. photo to:

**The Human Resources Manager
Box No. KA-008-01 ME
c/o the Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Bldg., #636 T.M. Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
(subject: KAL-ME)**

We are a Project (Construction) Management firm. We have recently signed contracts for several major projects and are in need of the following personnel:

SITE MANAGER
- ☑ Professional Engineers preferably licensed, minimum 15 years construction experience
- ☑ Responsible for the day-to-day site operations and assist Project Manager
- ☑ Proficient in oral and written English
- ☑ Dynamic and knows what hard work is all about
- ☑ Computer literate, accept provincial assignments

PROJECT MANAGER
- ☑ Professional Engineers preferably licensed
- ☑ Minimum 15 years experience with at least 2 years as Project/Site Manager
- ☑ Proficient in oral/written English
- ☑ Computer literate, accept provincial assignments

FIELD ENGINEERS & INSPECTORS
- ☑ All disciplines at least 8 years experience
- ☑ Do inspection, monitoring, and reporting of field works
- ☑ Has supervisory potentials, accept provincial assignments
- ☑ Dynamic, hardworking, and computer literate

All applicants must bring bio-data with ID picture to:

GHT SERVICES INC.
2/F R.T. and Sons Building
#14 Economia Street, Bagumbayan, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 633-4634 to 35
or Email application to: ght@mozcom.com
Fax No. 633-4855

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TRASMITTER TECHNICIAN
for **UHF TV Chan. 41**, Antipolo City

QUALIFICATIONS
- Male
- 23-25 yrs old
- must be a licensed first class radiotelephone operator
- fluent in Tagalog and English
- at least 2 yrs work experence on AM, FM and/or TV
- Easy to get along with
- Computer literate (Win Word, Excel)*
- W/ Driver's license *

Interested applicants may send their RESUME with recent 2x2 photo to:

CORPORATE SERVICES-HR
8TH F, JACINTA BLDG II,
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We will only respond to qualified applicants

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- Male or Female, between 23-30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- With minimum 2 years work experience in related industry
- Responsibilities will include servicing, and maintaining medium sized to large corporate accounts
- Must possess good interpersonal skills
- Able to work in a highly dynamic environment
- Above-average oral and written communication skills
- Knowledge in non-life or life insurance is an advantage
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Can drive

All qualified candidates may send their letter of application and comprehensive resumé to:
e-mail: **ampeloquio.mc@ayalaaon.com**

**The Human Resources Manager
Ayala Aon Risk Services, Inc.**
*4/F PSE Plaza, Tower One
Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 754-3101 or 754-3105*

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REGISTERED NURSES
Male or Female, 21 to 29 years old; With at least 6 months experience preferably gained in a hospital or HMO setting; Must have a pleasing personality and computer literate.

BILLING CLERK
Male/Female, 21 to 29 years old; Graduate of any four (4) year business course; Computer literate; Must have above average communication skills.

ACCOUNTING GRADUATES
Female, 21 to 30; Preferably with experience in handling of claims; Can work with minimum supervision and willing to work long hours; Knowledgeable in Windows based application; Willing to be assigned as Claims Processor.

Interested applicant may submit their resumé, 2x2 picture, transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department
MEDICard Philippines, Inc.
8/F Sagittarius Bldg.
H.V. Dela Costa Street,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
E-mail: rsalmon@medicardphils.com

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- ☐ Female not more than 24 years old;
- ☐ College graduate preferably in Business or Management course
- ☐ Proficient in computers particularly in Microsoft Office Application;
- ☐ Excellent communication skills both oral and written;
- ☐ Analytical, resourceful, honest and trustworthy;
- ☐ Reliable, hardworking and able to work well under pressure;
- ☐ Team player, enthusiastic and with good interpersonal skills.

We offer a competitive compensation & benefits package. Qualified candidates may send their comprehensive resumés with a 2x2 ID picture, transcript of records and contact telephone numbers to:

The Human Resources Department
(Position Code: hr-ba2001)
Sony Philippines, Inc.
26th Floor Tower I, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
or
E-mail your resume to cnealega@sony.com.ph (no attachments please)

We will only contact qualified candidates.

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WE ARE IN URGENT NEED TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

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- Graduate of Business, Marketing or Eng'g-related course
- Excellent oral & written communication skills
- Good presentation skills, positive work attitude
- 1-year experience in Corporate Sales from IT firm

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR
- 2-year experience in IIS, NT, TCP/IP, Linux administration.
- Experienced in network design & implementation.
- Knowledgeable in C/C++, Perl, and CGI development.

SENIOR VFP DEVELOPER
- 2-year experience in developing business applications
- Can work strange hours and subsist on caffeine
- Experience in ASP+VFP COM DLL's a big advantage

COMMERCE SYSTEMS IMPLEMENTERS
- Graduate of BS Commerce Major in Accountancy
- 2-yr work experience in an administrative/audit capacity
- Articulate, organized, and superb people skills
- Experience in using software-based accounting systems

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR
- 2-year work experience in warehouse management
- Organized, meticulous, disciplined, & proactive
- Can conduct perfect physical counts on a daily basis

WAREHOUSE CLERK
- 1-yr work experience as a warehouse clerk
- Willing to lift and move heavy boxes

ORDER PROCESSING CLERK
- Female with superb oral communication & typing skills
- 1-year work experience with a consumer PC retailer
- Engaging personality with superb customer-handling skills

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN
- Graduate of technical course w/ good scholastic records
- 3-year work experience with a consumer PC retailer

CASHIER
- 3-year work experience with large retail chain
- Can produce consistent end-of-day cash balances

We believe in continuous skills development & reward top performers. But we DO NOT tolerate mediocrity
Email resume, transcripts, NBI, health certificate & photo to jobs@titanium.com.ph. All positions for April 2001 hiring

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- **Customer Service Assistant** (HR Code: CSA042201)
- **Cashiers** (HR Code: CSH042201)
- **Systems & Procedures Officer** (HR SYS042201)

Mail, fax, or bring your resumé and 2x2 picture to us at our corporate center from **Monday to Friday, April 23 to 27.**

Priority will be given to walk-ins. Please arrive at **9:00AM or 1:00PM.** Please indicate **HR code** in your letter of application.

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Multilingual eREP™ (mandarin.japanese.korean.cantonese)

College graduates who are fluent and articulate in *speaking* **Mandarin, Japanese, Korean,** or **Cantonese,** are willing to work on a shifting schedule , and have *customer service skills* as well as ***great English communication*** and ***good typing skills.***

**** those familiar with Australian slang are welcome too!***

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Training Specialists; Personnel Assistants; Psychometricians; Compensation Specialists; HR Officers/Managers

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Staff Engineers for: Production; Maintenance/Purchasing; Quality Control/Assurance; Production Planning; Warehousing/Materials Mgmt.; Technicians

ADMINISTRATION
Executive Assistants; Executive Secretaries; General Secretaries; Receptionists

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MIS Staff; Systems Analyst; Programmers, Software Engineer; Technical Support/Network Engineer; Database Administrators

MARKETING/ADVERTISING
Marketing Assistants; Product Managers; Telemarketers; Public Relations Assistant; Customer Service Officers

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING
Accounting Managers; Accounting Staff; Auditors; Treasury Assistants; Cost Accountants; Bookkeepers; Credit & Collection Officers

SALES/TECHNICAL SALES
Sales Executives; Sales Representatives, Account Executives; Sales Engineers

Interested applicants are enjoined to send their resumé at:

4th Floor, Philcox Bldg.
172 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village,
Makati City
Tel. No.: 812-5994
E-mail: prostaffers@johnclements.com

STAFFBUILDERS ASIA
A Division of John Clements Consultants, Inc.

JOB OPENINGS

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING
Accountant; Bookkeeper; Accounting Clerk/Staff; Treasury Staff; Cashier

ADMINISTRATIVE and HUMAN RESOURCES
Executive Secretaries; General Secretaries; Office Assistants; Personnel Assistants; HR Assistants; Psychometrician; General/Filing Clerks; Front Desk Receptionists; Telephone Operators; Data Encoders

SALES & MARKETING
Account Executives; Sales Representatives; Customer Service Representatives; Marketing Assistants; Sales and Admin Assistants; Brand Assistants

IT and TECHNICAL
Programmers; Database Administrators; Network Administrators; Electrical Engineers; Electronics & Communication Engineers; Mechanical Engineers; Civil Engineers

• Fresh Graduates are welcome to apply.

Interested applicants are requested to report for interview and testing at:

G/F, Gloria Bldg. 109 Aguirre St.,
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Tel. Nos.: 8109201-04; 8182017

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HR Management Services Head
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo St.)
Cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts., Makati City
or e-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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Development Specialist
- ✈ Behavioral Science graduate
- ✈ With experience in training
- ✈ Male
- ✈ 24 to 35 y/o

Business Specialist
- ✈ Comp Sci graduate
- ✈ Knowledgeable on account management, system implementation and support, creation of business systems procedures & basic trouble shooting
- ✈ Male / Female
- ✈ 23 to 30 y/o

Technical Specialist
- ✈ Comp Eng graduate
- ✈ Well-versed in Oracle, NT and Unix Admin
- ✈ Male / Female; 23 to 30 y/o

Admin Asst. for Marketing
- ✈ Mass Comm, Comm Arts, or Management graduate
- ✈ Computer literate
- ✈ Female
- ✈ 21 to 29 y/o

We are also looking for **Mechanics (A&P, Avionics, Sheetmetal)**

If you feel qualified, send us your resume with 2x2 picture at Cebu Pacific Air, Human Resources Department 8006 Airline Operations Center, Domestic Road, Pasay City

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MARKETING OFFICER
- *Male, not more than 35 years old*
- *Graduate of Psychology, with above average scholastic record*
- *With relevant experience in the same capacity; knows how to drive*
- *Has pleasing personality, excellent human relations & communication skills*
- *Computer literate (MS Word / Excel / Powerpoint)*

MARKETING STAFF
- *Male/Female with pleasing personality*
- *Marketing or Hotel & Restaurant Graduate*
- *Not more than 27 years old*
- *Has good communication skills both oral and written*
- *Computer Literate (MS Word & Excel)*

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
- *Male / Female ; Certified Public Accountant*
- *Not more than 35 years old*
- *With relevant experience in the same capacity*
- *Has pleasing personality and excellent communication skills*

ACCOUNTING CLERKS / BOOKKEEPERS
- *Male / Female; Accounting Graduate*
- *Not more than 28 years old*
- *With or without experience; Computer literate (MS Word & Excel)*

DATA ENCODERS
- *Male / Female; Computer Science graduate or other computer related courses*
- *Not more than 30 years old*
- *At least 1 year relevant experience; with typing speed of 40 wpm*
- *Physically fit and with pleasing personality*

IT PROFESSIONALS
- *Male / Female, not more than 28 years old*
- *Graduate of Computer Science / Computer & Industrial Engineering/ Accounting/ B.S. Computer Science/ Information Technology and other computer related courses*
- *With or without experience*

Interested applicants may submit personally their resume with recent 2x2 ID picture and transcript of records to :

LBP SERVICE CORPORATION
9/F Century Tower, 100 Tordesillas cor. Dela Costa St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
e-mail : lbpsc@mozcom.com
Fax No. 817-7872

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- Male / Female
- Graduate of Business Management/Marketing
- Proficient in both oral & written communication
- Willing to do field work
- Must be people oriented
- With pleasing personality
- Dynamic, Agressive & has leadership qualities
- Experience is an advantage but not required

WEB DESIGNER / DEVELOPER
- Male / Female
- Graduate of 4-year course or any related course
- Creative, analytical & hardworking
- Knowledge in HTML, Java Script, Active Server Pages, Photoshop & Corel Draw
- Good communication skills
- Hardworking & result oriented
- With good moral character

SALES ENCODER
- Female
- Graduate of at least 2-year course
- With pleasing personality
- Good communication skills
- Honest & hardworking
- With good moral character
- Computer literate

STOCKS COORDINATOR
- Male / Female, not more than 27 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Knowledge in computer parts & peripherals
- Computer literate
- Honest & hardworking
- Good communication skills
- With good moral character

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN
- Male
- Graduate of Computer Course or Technician Course
- Honest, hardworking & dependable
- Good communication skills
- With good moral character

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé with recent 2x2 colored photo to:

Godofredo R. Castro, Jr.
Chief Operating Officer
VillMan Computer Systems, Inc.
VCSi Bldg., #32 Road 8,
Bagong Pag-asa, Quezon City

E-mail : junc@villman.com
Tel. 929-0411
Fax 456-8080
Website www.villman.com

Stores Specialists, Inc.

URGENTLY NEEDS

AUDIT ANALYST (AA-001)
- Male/Female, between 22 to 28 years old
- BS Industrial Engineering graduate, must be computer literate
- Preferably with experience in Industrial Engineering work
- With dynamic personality

FINANCIAL ANALYST (FA-001)
- Male or female, between 21 to 35 years old
- Graduate of Accounting or BS Industrial Engineering, must be computer literate
- Proficient in oral and written communication with analytical ability
- Preferably with related work experience
- Willing to work beyond regular office hours

SECRETARY (S-001)
- Female, between 21 to 30 years old. Single
- Graduate of any 4-year Business-related course
- Preferably with similar experience
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Must be computer literate
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality

SALES CONSULTANT (SC-001)
- Male, Female between 21 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year Business-related course
- At least 5'2" in height with clear complexion
- Must have initiative, ability and sustained interest in selling
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Adept in the English language

BEAUTY CONSULTANT/ MAKE-UP ARTIST (BC/MA-001)
- Female, between 21 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year Business-related course
- At least 5'2" in height with pleasing personality and clear complexion
- Preferably with skin care experience/Cosmetology background
- With good communication skills

BEAUTY THERAPIST (BT-001)
- Female, between 21 to 25 years old
- 5'2" and above in height
- With pleasing personality and clear complexion
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably Nursing/Physical Therapy
- With good communication skills

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé and recent 2x2 photo to:

STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
Personnel Department
4th Floor, Midland Buendia Building
#403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

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EXECUTIVE LEVEL
- **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS** *(for AMACC/AMATEL/ACLC Calamba, Davao, CDO,Cebu, Pagadian, NCR branches) must have sales & marketing experience at managerial level.*
- **BRANCH MANAGERS** *(for ACTEC - Alabang & Marcos Highway branches)*
- **BUDGET MANAGERS** *(Certified Public Accountant)*
- **WEBSITE MANAGERS**
- **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS**
- **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS**
- **HR MANAGERS / DIRECTORS**
- **BRAND MANAGERS**
- **LAWYERS** *(Member of the Bar & graduate from reputable law school)*

NON-ACADEMIC
- **HR SUPERVISORS** *(Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate)*
- **HR ASSISTANTS**
- **Jr. & Sr. AUDITORS** *(Preferably CPA)*
- **Jr. & Sr. PROGRAMMERS** *(Computer Science / COE graduate)*
- **PROPERTY CUSTODIAN**
- **PURCHASING SUPERVISORS**
- **COMPUTER OPERATORS**
- **EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES**

Interested Parties may send their resume & transcript of records to:

For NCR/Luzon Applicants
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
The AMA Corporate Office
AMA Bldg II, 59 Panay Ave., QC.
Tel. #s : 373-3901 loc. 249/262
413-5777
Telefax: 371-1661 / 373-4666
374-2607
E-mail : vgvialer@amaes.edu.ph

For VISAYAS Applicants:
HRD AMACC-Cebu
2/F Angelica Bldg., Osmena Blvd., Cebu City
Tel. #253-0467/255-7721

For MINDANAO Applicants:
HRD AMACC-Davao
Ruby St.,Marfori Heights Subd., Davao City
Tel. #: (082)221-5192 to 94

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- **SYSTEMS SPECIALIST - CSC-SS (5)**
  Pref. Female; Graduate of any business course (i.e. Marketing, Comm. Arts, Architecture, Fine Arts); with pleasing personality; Excellent communication skills; with or without experience.
- **AUTOCAD OPERATOR - CSC-ACO (1)**
  Pref. Male; Graduate of B.S. Architecture; Must have a thorough knowledge on all aspects/ features of AutoCad and must know how to use 3D StudioMax. Knows how to prepare floor plan presentation; fast learner and can cope easily with pressure.
- **BMS ENGINEER - ESCO (2)**
  Pref. Male; BS EE or BS ECE graduate. With at least 2 years experience in Design and implementation of BMS, FDAS and Security System.
- **HRD COORDINATOR - CF-HC (1)**
  Pref. Female; Graduate of BS Psychology or any Behavioral Science Course; With at least one (1) year experience in training and development; Expert in PowerPoint presentation; Excellent oral & communication skills & can facilitate short courses.
- **ELECT'L DESIGNER - ESCO-EDE(2)**
  Pref. Male; Graduate of BS EE with license. With at least 1 year experience and can perform cost effective and quality design and estimates for electrical requirements.

Comfac Global Group
19/F, The World Centre
330 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave.,
Makati City, Philippines

For more inquiries please see or call:
RIZA S. FERNANDEZ
867 8301 loc. 245 or 295

ADD Force Personnel Services, Inc. is a staffing consultancy services company engaged in supporting business firms with all kinds of employees from Executive, Professional/Technical, Administrative to Rank and File. It commenced operations in 1986 and is continuously making its mark in the industry.

ADD Force draws its experience and expertise from its international affiliate ADECCO (http://www.adecco.com), the world's largest staffing services company based in Europe and the US. It has offices and branches in 50 countries. It also has a network of branches in Cebu, Davao and Cagayan de Oro aimed at better serving the needs of our clients.

SALES EXECUTIVES for the following industries:

Information Technology
2 years experience in Account Management and in a computer/IT firm; with experience in Supply Chain Management/Logistics, distribution and wholesaling; adept in IT users application; must be people oriented; has leadership qualities, proficient in both oral and written communication; male/female, graduate of Business Management/Marketing, not over 35 years old.

Industrial/Mechanical
2 to 3 years selling exposure, preferably on the same industry; degree in Engineering, preferably Mechanical; Industrial and Electrical proficient in both oral and written communication.

PRE-SALES CONSULTANT
2 years experience in sales, supply chain management/logistics/distribution & wholesaling; knowledgeable in IT applications, able to read and write technical literature; proficient on both oral and written communication/ presentation skills; willing to do field work; Graduate of Business Management/Marketing; 23 years old.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT ENGINEER
At least 3 years experience in customer software and equipment servicing; experience in color technologies and imaging software; knowledge of computer hardware, software and networking, Must be customer-focused and a team player must be able to work

HRD OFFICER
2 years of comprehensive working knowledge on developing and coordinating training programs and recruitment; a goal and achievement-oriented, can work under pressure and meet deadlines, has above satisfactory oral and written English skills has impressive interpersonal skills. Graduate of any 4-year course, preferably in Psychology, Management, or similar behavioral sciences.

ASP PROGRAMMER
Minimum of 6 months solid experience in Web development programming; with Visual Basic background; willing to be assigned in Cavite, male/female, single/married.

ORACLE DEVELOPER
3 years experience in Oracle Programming; experience in forms, reports, PL/SQL, male/female; Graduate of Computer Science or any related computer course, male/female.

TESTERS
3 years experience in same capacity, experience in winrunner, mercury or any testing tool, male/female.

CO. NURSE/ADMIN ASSISTANT
At least 6 months experience (clinic/office) knowledgeable in basic office functions like filing; knows first aid; registered nurse, computer literate, female, not more than 29 years old.

SECRETARY
Proficient in MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint; very good communication skills (both oral and written); female, single, with pleasing personality, graduate of any 4-year course, fresh graduates are welcome to apply; not more than 29 years old.

SENIOR MIS ADMINISTRATOR
At least 3 years experience as MIS Administrator; experience in Suns Systems; graduate of Computer Engineering or Computer Science; male/female.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
MBA is preferred excellent communication skills, must be proficient in the English language. Results-oriented and keen attention to details; Business Administration or Communications graduate is preferred; computer literacy in MS Word, Powerpoint, Excel, female, below 30 years old.

Interested applicants may send their resumés and picture to:

ADD-FORCE Personnel Services, Inc.

ADD FORCE PERSONNEL SERVICES
148 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel: 8941354/8944688/8942338 Fax: 8941357
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Send Bio-data or Apply in person at:
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T. Morato, Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 374-1323 / 372-4452
E-mial: copylink@skyinet.net

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Bring or e-mail CV's to: CONTINENTAL BEVERAGE COMPANY, INC.
807 Greenbelt Mansion, 106, Perea St. Legaspi Village, Makati.
e-mail: macchiato@hataw.ph or contibev@hotmail.com

THE INCLEN TRUST

AN INTERNATIONAL NON-PROFIT HEALTH ORGANIZATION INVOLVED IN HEALTH RESEARCH AND TRAINING NEEDS:

WEB DESIGNER/PROGRAMMER
- ✘ must be proficient in client server database related skills (e.g. MS Access, Excel); web development related skills (e.g. Dreamweaver, Javascript); network related skills (e.g. Windows NT Admin, LINUX) and additional skills on hardware troubleshooting
- ✘ must have 1-2 years work experience
- ✘ BS Computer Science or Engineering preferred

Send Resumé and salary requirements to:

The Executive Director
INCLEN TRUST
Section E, 5th Floor Ramon Magsaysay Center
1680 Roxas Boulevard, Malate, Manila
or E-mail: inclen@inclentrust.org

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VISUAL MERCHANDISING & STORE DESIGN MANAGER

THE POSITION:
- Responsible for conceptualizing developing, sourcing and implementing exciting visual display and store design ideas

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Graduates of Architecture or Interior Design
- Strong organizational and leadership skills
- Excellent in visual, written, oral and electronic presentation and communication skills
- With basic knowledge of space planning and interior design
- Must be able to successfully operate in a fast-paced changing environment working on multiple projects
- Job requires frequent domestic and foreign travel

VISUAL DISPLAY ARTISTS

THE POSITION:
- Responsible for implementing window displays and visual display standards

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Fresh graduates of Fine Arts or Interior Design
- Excellent visual presentation and communication skills
- Creative, resourceful and result-oriented
- Can operate in a multi-task work atmosphere
- Must have no travel nor overtime work restrictions

ARTISTS/ILLUSTRATORS

THE POSITION:
- Responsible for conceiving and developing creative product designs appropriate for Penshoppe brand

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Highly creative with a great sense of style
- Excels in drawing, painting and sketching
- Can relate fashion, music, movie and the arts to great product design
- General PC/MAC graphic software skills required
- Fresh graduates of Fine Arts are welcome

STORE MANAGERS/ MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

(Tuguegarao, Dagupan, Manila, Quezon City, Urdaneta, Batangas, Cabanatuan)

THE POSITION:
- Responsible for the achievement of sales target

QUALIFICATIONS:
- 21-28 years old
- Graduates of business, economics or related courses
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills
- Proven skills in managing and developing people
- Trustworthy, aggressive and results-oriented
- Experience in retail and consumer products a plus

COMPANY NURSE/ FRONT DESK STAFF

THE POSITION:
- Responsible for manning the reception area, receiving incoming/outgoing calls and other related administrative functions

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Graduates of BS Nursing
- Personable with effective communication skills
- Can carry out instructions very well
- Highly motivated and organized

Qualified applicants may submit their application letter, resumé and 2x2 colored photo to:
The Personnel Manager,
Penshoppe
(Manila) 62 Old Samson Road, Balintawak, Quezon City,
(Cebu) 880 A.S. Fortuna St., Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu,
Philippines
or e-mail us at:
hrd@penshoppe.com

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www.penshoppe.com

Channel Technologies, Inc. (CTI) has over 10 years of experience in providing ATM (automatic teller machines), Tellering Equipment, I.T. and Communication products and related services to 80% of the major banks in the country including BPI, Equitable PCI, Allied Bank, Solid Bank, Citibank, PNB, RCBC, and Banco de Oro. Partnered with world-class technology providers such as IBM, Diebold, Compaq, Avaya / Lucent, Memotec Frame Relay Solutions, and Ingenico POS Terminals, CTI continuously delivers customer satisfaction with 5 offices in Metro Manila, branch offices in all the provincial regions of the country, and 2 offshore offices in the USA.

For Immediate Hiring

Interested parties should submit their resumé with passport size photos to Ms. Nera Acutillar at Suite 218, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, with telephone no. 811-4001.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF / SECRETARY

- ☐ 21-29 years of age, female
- ☐ Graduate of any 4-year college course
- ☐ Computer literate with proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel
- ☐ Possess excellent oral and written communication skills
- ☐ Well-versed in business correspondence
- ☐ Better than average typist
- ☐ Pleasing personality, hardworking, self-motivated and highly organize

VISUAL BASIC PROGRAMMERS

- ☐ 20-29 years of age, male or female
- ☐ Graduate of any 4-year I.T. related college course
- ☐ Mastery of Visual Basic 6.0
- ☐ Knowledge of MS SQL Server 6.0 or 7.0, and Windows NT or 2000 Server
- ☐ Additional know-how on Visual C++, Visual Interdev and/or Visual FoxPro is preferred
- ☐ At least 1-year hands-on programming experience
- ☐ Highly collaborative style of working as part of a team
- ☐ Analytical, hardworking and patient
- ☐ Must be willing to work beyond regular working hours

UPS SERVICE ENGINEERS

- ☐ 20-35 years of age, male or female
- ☐ Graduate of BSECE, BSEE or any electrical/vocational course
- ☐ At least 2 years experience in troubleshooting and repair of UPS
- ☐ Highly collaborative style of working as part of a team
- ☐ Willing to travel occasionally outside of Metro Manila
- ☐ Must be willing to work beyond regular working hours

Southeastern College

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Send your resume to the Registrar's Office or e-mail at director@southeastern.com.ph. Previous applicants need not apply.

Trabahong takam-tingin?

Apply ka na rin!

STORE MANAGERS
-Male/Female, not more than 35 years old.
-College graduate of BS HRM, BSC Management, Marketing, Accounting, Economics, Business Administration or any business-oriented course.
-With at least three (3) years managerial experience in retail, manufacturing, fast food or any service oriented business.
-Articulate, presentable and smart with strong leadership ability.
-Flexible and willing to work on rotating shifts.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
-Must be a bonafide resident of Manila, Marikina, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Quezon City, Parañaque, Cavite, Angeles City or Bulacan.
-Male or Female, not more than 27 years old.
-College graduate of BS HRM, BSC Management, Marketing, Accounting, Economics, Business Administration or any business-oriented course.
-Articulate, presentable and smart.
-FRESH GRADUATES are welcome!
-Flexible and willing to work on rotating shifts.

ACCOUNTANT
-Male or Female, not more than 30 years old.
-Graduate of BS Accountancy, with good scholastic records.
-Willing to be assigned in Manila and in Ortigas Area.
-Flexible and hardworking.

OFFICE CLERKS
-Male or Female, not more than 27 years old.
-Graduate of BS Computer Science and any business-related course
-Computer literate.
-Flexible and hardworking.

KITCHEN CREW
-Must be a bonafide resident of Cavite, Manila or Parañaque.
-Male only, 18-25 years old.
-at least 5'5" in height.
-At least high school graduate.

THE RECRUITMENT OFFICER
CHOWKING CORPORATE OFFICE
2nd Floor ROL Bldg., 2133 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila
(NEAR THE LRT-QUIRINO STATION)
or e-mail at: [illegible]
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ASST.OPERATIONS/PRODUCTION MANAGER
Male/Female, at least 28 yrs old, BS Indusnal Engineering graduate or any related course pref. with MBA units/degree. Must be holding the same capacity or Senior Supervisor for at least 2 yrs in a food plant, with wide experience in all phases of operations, productions, inventory control, warehousing and shipping.

SALES SUPERVISOR
Male;College graduate not over 35 years old with at least 3 years work experience in the same capacity, with strong leadership; willing to accept any provincial assignment.

BOOKING SALESMAN
(NCR key accounts and Major Accounts Group)
Male/Female, not over 27 years old, college graduate with at least 2 years consumer selling experience

EXTRUCK SALESMAN
Male, not over 28 years old, College graduate with or without selling experience, willing to be trained to assume higher position in Sales, holder of driver's license Code 2-3. Newly graduates are welcome to apply.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Female, not over 28 yrs old, Business course graduate with at least 2 yrs experience in the same capacity, computer and business communication literate.

AUDITORS
Male/Female not over 28 yrs old, accounting graduate with at least 1 yr experience in a manufacturing company. Willing to travel and/or accept provincial assignment.

QA/QC ASSISTANT
Male/Female, B.S. Food Technology graduate; with or w/o experience; not over 27 yrs old; new graduates are welcome to apply.

ACCOUNTING CLERK/DOCUMENTATION CLERK
Male/Female not over 28 yrs old, Accounting graduate, with or without working experience.

Please send your resumé to:

The Head, Human Resource Management Services
Jo-na's International Philippines, Inc.
#22 Clemente St., Brgy. San Agustin Novaliches QC
E-MAIL: jipi@philonline.com
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FINANCIAL ANALYST

The successful candidate shall be involved in the Budgeting, Financial Analysis & Responsibility Reporting.
BS Accountancy grad.; M/F; S/M; not more than 28 yrs old; Good communication skills;
With at least 1-2 yrs experience in financial planning / budgeting gained in a mfg set-up;
Knowledgeable in making small programs related to budget; Computer literate.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS SPECIALIST

The successful candidate shall be responsible in Compensation & Benefits Administraton.
Graduate of Psychology or related courses; M/F; S/M; Pref. not more than 30 yrs old;
With at least 2 yrs experience in handling Compensation & Benefits in a manufacturing set-up;
With working knowledge of job evaluation, grading and pricing; formulation of job description;
wage and salary administration; and administration of government & company benefits.

PURCHASING ENGINEERS

The successful candidates shall be involved in the purchasing of parts, materials and equipments in line with the company's localization plan.
Engineering graduate pref. EE or ME; M/F; Single; not more than 30y/o;
Minimum of 2 yrs experience in the same capacity gained in a mfg set-up;
With working knowledge in sourcing and purchasing of parts, materials and equipment; cost checking, quotation verification and preparation of suppliers' contract;
With excellent communication and negotiation skills; Analytical and computer literate.

POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER

The successful candidate shall attend to the requirements of the company with regards to pollution control facilities, application and renewal of necessary permits, ensure compliance with air, noise and water quality standards, and acts as liaison to gov't and private entities involved in pollution control and environmental affairs.
Engineering; Male, Single / Married; not more than 35 yrs old;
W/ working knowledge of Pollution Control Management, acquisition and renewal of necessary permits and preparation of various DENR and LLDA reports;
Knowledgeable in chemical handling and disposal, identification of toxic materials, sampling tests and DENR / LLDA rules & regulations.

PRODUCTION CONTROL PLANNERS

The successful candidates shall be responsible in production scheduling, capacity planning, monitoring of production output and movement of finished goods.
College grad. pref. Engineering course; Male; Single & not more than 26y/o; Computer literate;
With working knowledge in preparing production schedule; monitoring/checking of prodn plan, control/monitoring of inventory of goods, parts & materials gained from a manufacturing set-up.

INVENTORY CONTROLLERS (PARTS REQUISITIONER)

The successful candidates shall be responsible in managing stock inventory including planning, requisitioning, records keeping and reports preparation on stocks movement.
Engg, Acctg or Mgt graduate; Male/Female; Single & not more than 26y/o; Computer literate;
With working knowledge in inventory control and material planning, preparing purchase requisitions of parts/materials needed based on production forecast & suppliers lead time.

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS

The successful candidates shall perform preventive & corrective maintenance, automated design and modification, and equipment improvement.
BS EE, ME or ECE graduate; Male; Single/Married; not more than 30 years old;
W/ strong knowledge in PLC& Electropneumatics; Knowledgeable in electrical schematic diagrams.
With experience in electromechanical works, automation, PLC, machine maintenance & troubleshooting.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The successful candidate shall perform administrative functions such as canteen and shuttle coordination, purchase and monitoring of office supplies / equipment, and other clerical tasks.
Graduate of any business course; Female, Single & pref. not more than 22y/o; Assertive and dependable;
At least 6 months experience in performing administrative tasks in mfg set-up;
W/ good communication skills.

SAFETY & SECURITY ASSISTANT

The successful candidate shall assist the Safety & Security Officer in the implementation of various safety and security control programs.
Engg graduate Pref. ME or EE. Male; Single & not more than 26y/o,
With at least 6 months experience in the same capacity pref. in a mfg set-up;
W/ working knowledge in the implementation of accident prevention programs PPE compliance,
fire prevention and security control programs: Assertive and dependable.

GROUP LEADERS

The successful candidates shall be responsible for monitoring production output, & assisting the Mfg Supervisors in coordinating all assembly activities and processes to ensure complete& proper implementation of mfg standards.
College Grad pref Engineering; Male / Female; Pref. single; Not more than 28 yrs old
With at least 6 months experience as a Group / Line Leader in a manufacturing set-up
Knowledgeable in using measuring instruments like vernier caliper or micrometers.

Interested applicants may hand carry, send, fax or e-mail their resume to:

JIDECO MANUFACTURING PHILIPPINES INC.
Lima Technology Center, Lipa City, Batangas
E-mail address: monette-sunga@jideco.co.jp
FAX #: (043) 981-0383 / 981-0702

We are a dynamic group of garment companies and we are currently inviting highly-qualified individuals with strong team orientation and firm commitment to excel to join us as:

PRODUCTION ENGINEERING MANAGER/ INTERNAL RESULTANTS

- Male or Female
- Graduate of BS Industrial Engineering
- With excellent work knowledge on manufacturing operations, method analysis / process leverage and impact assessment, determination of "what needs to be changed," cycle time measurement, and business process improvement.
- Managerial Competence. 5 years managerial experience with excellent performance track record (for PE Manager only). With coaching and mentoring skills that foster an environment of empowerment and accountability.
- Leadership / Motivation. Inspirational. Motivates and convinces through both goal setting and results attainment. With high energy level, and focuses on commitment and Speed Driven Results rather than simply being involved and busy.
- Process Orientation. With strong process orientation and analytical skills. An active planner.
- People Orientation. Resourceful, with root-cause problem solving abilities to leverage teams and manage relationships effectively.
- With excellent oral and written communication.
- With ability to speak, read and write in Chinese (for Internal Resultants only)

PROCESS PRODUCTION ENGINEERS

- Male or Female
- Graduate of BS Industrial Engineering
- Work knowledge on garment manufacturing operations and method analysis, preferred
- With strong process and people orientation and analytical skills
- With excellent oral and written communication

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- Male or Female
- Graduate of BS Industrial Engineering / Production Manufacturing Management / Operations Research
- Belongs to the top 15% of the graduating batch
- 20 to 25 years of age
- With strong problem solving techniques
- Highly analytical
- With good written and oral communication skills
- With effective inter-personal skills
- With strong leadership potentials

Qualified candidates may either send thru e-mail or handcarry their comprehensive resumé with recent 2x2 photo and employment history, together with their school and employment credentials to:

TRISTATE PHILIPPINE OPERATIONS
10th Floor, Jaka Bldg. 6780 Ayala Avenue,
Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. No.: (632) 813-1683 Fax: (632) 813-5351
Attention: HRA Department
cathy_tibayan@tristateww.com

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

APTi

APTI-Philippines, Inc. is a Research and Development Company and an affiliate of IBM Japan, Ltd. and TOSHIBA TEC Corp.

Research and Development is a way of life in APTI-Philippines. We encourage our people to challenge present technologies to come up with better ones. In the highly volatile I.T. industry, we strive to be among the leaders to drive its growth and direction, anticipating the next stages of technology evolution.

Join us now and be a part of the FUTURE!

We are involved in:
- Microcode Development for Laser and High-Speed Impact Printers, and POS Terminals.
- Device Drivers, Middleware and Network, POS and other Software Applications Development.
- Quality Assurance Services

We are looking for Highly Motivated and Experienced IT Professionals and Developers for the following:

HARDWARE Engineer

Main Job: To design and develop controller cards and ASICs specifically for the printer market.
Qualifications:
- at least 1 year industry experience in digital design
- Experience in RTL synthesis and design flow
- Proficiency in VHDL design
- Industry experience in Analog design an advantage
- Proficiency in Verilog or mixed HDL design an advantage
- Experience in using industry level design tools an advantage

SOFTWARE Engineer

Main Job: To design and develop software applications; to create various utilities for POS System.
Qualifications:
- At least 1 year industry experience in software development using Visual C++ and Visual Basic
- Full Knowledge of Windows 9X environment
- Knowledge in using SQL, MS SQL an advantage
- Familiar with Windows NT/2000 an advantage

MICROCODE/FIRMWARE Engineer

Main Job: To design and develop printer microcode (firmware), driver and print manager. Qualifications:
- At least 1 year industry experience in printer-related projects in Windows, Linux or OS/2
- Experience in Developing Embedded Systems (e.g. printer, cell phone, pager, PDA)
- Knowledgeable in C/C++ and Assembly Language Programming
- Possess Good Logic
- Familiar with equipment such as logic analyzer and oscilloscope

ASSOCIATE Product Quality Assurance Engineer

Main Job: To assume the role of a product leader who can control and manage the schedule, resources (incl. people and equipment) and quality of any given project. It also involves technical leadership that requires coping with the latest technology in the computing industry.
Qualifications:
- 3 years work experience in the IT industry (either development or quality assurance)
- At least 1 year project management experience (either development or quality assurance project)
- Knowledge and experience in various Operating Systems is an advantage.
- Knowledge and experience in network administration (Win NT or Netware) an advantage.
- Knowledge of Visual basic, Visual C/C++ or Lotus Notes Script Programming an advantage.

All applicants must be graduates of Computer Science, Computer Engineering, BS ECE, or other 4-5 years computer related course. Japanese Language ability is an advantage. Candidates must possess Strong Leadership Skills, Solid Interpersonal Communication Skills, and must be a Team Player.

ACCOUNTANT

Main Job: To handle general financial and tax accounting with participation in financial planning and control.
- CPA, with at least 3 years work experience in Auditing or General Accounting
- Female, not more than 28 years old
- Single
- Preferably residing near Alabang
- Graduate of BS Accountancy or BS in Commerce major in Accounting
- Good Oral and written communication skills
- Knowledge in Japanese Language (Nihongo) an advantage
- Must be computer literate, possess high potential for management position in the future.
- Result-oriented and a team player

Compensation and Benefits:
- Outstanding opportunities to work with Top Multinational IT Companies Worldwide
- Attractive remuneration package and career advancement
- Japanese Language Training
- Opportunities to travel overseas

We are now hiring for our Alabang and Cebu Offices. Applicants may send their application letter, resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 ID picture and supporting credentials through the following addresses:

Alabang Office: P.O. Box 187, Ayala-Alabang Post Office, 1799, Muntinlupa City
Cebu Office: Rm 205 TPL Bldg., Banilad Road cor. Maria Luisa Estate Park, Cebu City 6000

You may also send your resumé (TEXT format only) through the following Email addresses:

COCOLIFE

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Urgently needs the following:

PROGRAMMERS
- With at least a Bachelor, Post Graduate Diploma or Professional Degree in Engineering (Computer/ Telecommunication), Computer Science/ IT, or equivalent;
- Candidates must be between 21 and 27 years of age;
- Minimum of 6 months experience in software development using Visual Basic and knowledgeable in ASP programming;
- Preferably with experience in Unix (Solaris) and Informix SQL.

CUSTOMER CARE ASSISTANTS
- Female, not more than 28 years old;
- BS Nursing graduate;
- Very pleasing personality;
- Customer service oriented.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- Female, not more than 28 years old;
- Graduate of any 4-year course;
- Very pleasing personality;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Computer literate.

AUDIT CLERKS
- Male;
- Not more than 25 years old;
- Accounting graduate with CPA review;
- Computer literate;
- Can travel for provincial audits.

ACTUARIAL ANALYSTS
- BS Applied Math/Statistics graduate of a school with good standing;
- Programming skills in Excel;
- 1 to 2 years related work experience, an advantage;
- Preferably with 1 SA/ASP exam passed and/or masteral units in Actuarial Science.

MARKETING ASSISTANTS
- Graduate of any Business course, preferably Marketing;
- Very pleasing personality;
- Customer service oriented;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Willing to do field work.

Interested applicants must submit a Comprehensive Resumé, Transcript of Records and most recent 2x2 picture to:

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6774 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
or E-mail us at:
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RAMCAR GROUP OF COMPANIES

Invites World-Class people to fill in the following positions:

MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN
- Male, 21-25 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Mechanical Engineering
- Computer literate and has knowledge on hydraulics, pneumatics and instrumentation.

PROCESS ENGINEERS
- Male, 20-30 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Chemical Engineering; licensed is an advantage
- With at least 2 years experience as Process Engineer or R&D Engineer gained from a manufacturing company. Experience from ITDI (Industrial Technical Development Institute) is a definite advantage.

ELECTRONICS ENGINEER
- Male, 30-35 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Electrical or Electronics & Comm. Engineering
- Must have 3 to 5 years related work experience and exposure in Siemens programming is an advantage.

Q.A. AUDITOR
- Male, 22-28 years old; graduate of B.S. Mechanical Engineering
- Must have exposure on ISO 9001 and preferably on Statistical Process Control and calibration
- Highly computer literate; keen on details and with good interpersonal skills.

Q.A. LABORATORY TECHNICIANS
- Male, 22-25 years old; graduate of any of the following: Chemical Eng., Chemistry or Mechanical Engineering
- Must have worked in an ISO-certified company laboratory facilities
- Computer literate (Word & Excel).

CALIBRATION ENGINEER
- Male, 23-28 years old; graduate of ECE or EE pref. licensed
- With at least 2 years related work experience and trained on industrial calibration, uncertainty of measurement and MSA.

H.R. ASSOCIATE / SUPERVISOR
- Male/Female, 25-35 years old; graduate of any HR-related course
- With at least 5 years work experience handling HR functions focusing on OD (Organization Development) and Training in a manufacturing concern
- Pref. with thorough knowledge of OD methodology
- Computer literate and excellent interpersonal skills.

All positions will be based in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MUST APPLY PERSONALLY TO:

THE CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION
Ramcar Center, 60-82 Roces Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail: ebmuscat@ramcar.com

NOTE: Previous applicants need not apply.

INFOTECH

Our clients are in need of competitive and qualified applicants to fill up various positions for their expansion. They offer viable compensation packages and guaranteed career opportunities.

CONSULTANTS
We are in need of consultants with a good knowledge and substantial experience in the following skill sets: C/C++, SAP ABAP 4, SAP PP, preferably with work experience or knowledge in SAP APO, Systems Administration using UNIX and NT 2000.

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR
With 2-5 years work experience as QA Supervisor, knows and adheres to standard quality and procedures. must have a background in analysis and design with firm knowledge of business processes

SAP IMPLEMENTOR
With 3 years work experience as SAP implementor specifically in Warehouse Information System. Male or female 23 to 35 years old.

SYSTEMSANALYST/PROGRAMMERS
With 2 years work experience in Systems development in a senior project capacity. With solid experience in COBOL, UNIX, POWER BUILDER, preferably technical exposure is in client server and mainframe environment. Male or female between 26-30 years old

ASP PROGRAMMERS
Knowledge of VB Script, Java Script, CGI, Perl Development tools, Develop Page, Data base driven pages, at least 1 year work experience.

ABAP 4 PROGRAMMERS
Male or female, between 21 to 35 years old, with 1½ years experience in Systems Application Procedure and ABAP 4 development. Degree in 4 years computer course.

JAVA DEVELOPER-PROGRAMMER
Male or female between 21 to 35years old. With 2-3 years real hands on experience in Java Programming. Must be a graduate of Computer Science, with in-depth knowledge of Java Technologies, HTML, EJP, familiar with J2EE on XML. Graduate of Computer Science or any related course.

ORACLE DEVELOPER WITH JAVA
Candidate must be a graduate of Bachelors degree in Computer Science. Male or female, 21-35 years old. With 1-3 years work experience as Oracle Developer with Java. Must have a solid knowledge in Oracle 8i and oracle database. With solid knowledge in Java Programming.

WEB DEVELOPER
Creative, capable in designing and developing E-commerce applications and websites, experience in SQL database, Java language, Front Page. Preferably with 2 years work experience in the same field. Male or female 21-30 years old.

COMPUTER ENGINEER
Male or female, graduate of Computer Engineering with 1 to 2 years work experience in the same field. With good communication skills

PERSONNEL OFFICERS
Male or Female, between 27 to 40 years old, Psychology or Industrial Relation graduate. Preferably with 3-5 years work experience in the same field. Well versed in all facets of HR functions such as Recruitment, Compensation and Benefits, Employee Relations and Training. With good communication skills and can work well under pressure.

ACCOUNTANTS
Male or female, between 25 to 38 years old, ideal candidate must have excellent knowledge of Excel 95/97/98 as well as the macro's that have been used. Must be able to re-write old modules in Excel 2000 using the VB macros. He/she must have previous tax background or basic financial experience understanding of tax procedures.

These are urgent requirements.

Please mail comprehensive resume and transcript of records or apply personally at:

Human Resource Department
2/F Gold Quest Bldg.
Panay Ave., QC or e-mail to lbs_ipsi@hotmail.com
These are urgent requirements
Kindly indicate position applied for on the envelope and on the subject field for e-mail
Tel. Nos. (63) (2) 371-31-81/371-20-85
Fax No. (63) (2) 373-46-66

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WEbsite: www.genetic.com.ph/

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Who will be in charge of ensuring continuous client loyalty and productivity through constant visits and will be responsible for Company revenue targets by the implementation of Marketing plans.

Candidates must be holding a College Degree;
Strong Airline or International travel-related background
(i.e. Reservations, Ticketing or Sales);
Good communication skills;
Pleasing personality and preferably aged 23-33.

If you possess all these attributes, then we would like to hear from you.

Attractive compensation await successful candidates. Interested applicants are requested to personally submit their resumés and other work documents on or before **May 4, 2001** to:

HRD OFFICE, TRANSNATIONAL DIVERSIFIED GROUP, INC.
2/F Mary Bachrach Building, 25th corner
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(Beside the Manila Hotel)
Email: hrd@tdgworld.com

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- 21-30 years old

OFFICE STAFF/SECRETARY/ACCTG. CLERK
- Graduates of any four-year course from reputable schools
- Proficient in oral and written communications
- Computer literate
- With relevant working experience

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS

Send your comprehensive resume, transcript of records, and two 2x2 pictures to:
THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
309 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Q.C.

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ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Previous experience in similar field preferred but not essential
- Self-motivating
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- With strong leadership and initiative
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- Female

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Please apply in person with your detailed resumé and credential on April 23-25 between 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at

78 15th Avenue, Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City
E-mail: bodynsoul@skyinet.net

JOB OPENING

We are a leading manufacturer and distributor of world class food brands with extensive market both in consumer and institutional products. Our well-established position does not stop us from improving our services. We are in immediate need of additional employees for the company's continuing development efforts.

We challenge mature and dynamic individuals to join the pool of our talented workforce, and fill the following post:

SYSTEMS ANALYST / PROGRAMMER
- College graduate, preferably BS Comp. Sci./ECE/Comp. Eng'g or other related courses
- Must have a background in overall software development
- Proficient in ORACLE Application development
- Analytical and results-oriented
- Team player

R & D Assistant
- Female, preferably single
- Not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of BS Food Tech. / BS Chemistry / BS Chem. Eng'g.
- With at least 1 year experience

Collector
- Male, preferably with experience
- Must be familiar with Metro Manila
- Knows how to drive a motorcycle
- With good moral character

This is an URGENT requirement; please send your comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

HRD
SYSU Centre, 145 Panay Avenue cor. Sgt. Esguerra St.,
Quezon City, Metro Manila 1103
or send thru e-mail at: hr@sysuinc.com.ph

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MATERIALS ENGINEER

Licensed Eng. with a min. of 2 years supervisory experience in Quaity Control & Quality Assurance Environment for Concrete, Asphalt Aggregates. Must be familiar with AASHTO, A.S.T.M.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Female, College Grad., with good communication and interpersonal skills, results and goal oriented and can work under pressure.

Bring Resumé and NBI Clearance
PACIFIC CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC.
#15 West Avenue, Quezon City Suite 302
(In front of Kowloon House)
E-mail: pacific@evoserve.com

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International MLM Company marketing high quality consumable products, requires

- Qualified sales leaders for corporate position
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Rush your details in writing or fax to:

Vice President, MLM Corporate Sales
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Makati Central Post Office
1258 Makati City
or fax to: (02) 810-6352

Eastern Shipping Lines, Inc.
A well-established international shipping company is in need of the following:

PORT ENGINEER
(TECHNICAL SUPERINTENDENT)
Must have an actual on-board experience as Chief Engineer on ocean-going vessels for at least three (3) years, computer literate. ISM-oriented definitely a plus;

SECRETARY
Female, graduate of any four- (4) year course, preferably BS Secretarial with at least two (2) years related experience. Computer literate. Shorthand skills necessary

AUDITOR
Male, Accounting graduate, computer literate. Report writing skill. Willing to travel.

Please send resumé through fax no. 527-3006 or through E-mail address: eastship@skylnet.net or mail to:

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
EASTERN SHIPPING LINES, INC.
Anda Circle, Port Area, Manila

A leading food chain is currently in need of a highly motivated and goal-oriented individual to fill in the position of:

MIS SUPERVISOR

- ✔ Male or female
- ✔ Not over 35 years old
- ✔ With pleasing personality
- ✔ Graduate of any business related course (Accounting, Industrial Engineering or Computer Science)
- ✔ Minimum of 3 years work experience in Information Technology
- ✔ Working knowledge of the ff:
  - Novell Operating System
  - Windows NT
  - Windows 98/95
  - SQL
  - Xbase
- ✔ Resident of Parañaque, Las Piñas or Alabang

Interested applicants are requested to mail their resumé, 2x2 recent photo and transcript of records to

P.O. Box 2275, Manila
e-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
(Subject: WC-KAL)

We are growing International MLM company marketing high quality consumable products. We are sourcing applicants for the position of:

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANT

The candidate should have good people relation skills. Efficient, self-motivated young woman with bright personality who enjoys challenges and is willing to accept increasing responsibilities. Future prospect are excellent.

Help us grow... and grow with us!

Please send your application letter and resumé with references and contact number to:

CUSTOMER SERVICE
P.O. BOX 1846
Makati Central Post Office
1258 Makati City
or fax to: (02) 810-6352

WANTED

A start-up Research and Development firm is in need of the following immediately:

3 Analog/Digital Circuit Design Engineers
- excellent in circuit analysis
- has prototyping and computer programming skills (C/ Microcontroller program)
- knowledgeable in wireless technology, Blue tooth and 802.11

2 Computer Engineers
- excellent in programming skills in Microcontroller programming
- knowledgeable in visual basic, C/ C++, Numerical Analysis, GUI, Database programming, Assembly Language programming, Software Application development, wireless technology and Blue tooth

1 Applied Physicist
- knowledgeable in electrostatic analysis, electronics devices and materials, EMC/ EMI, ESD/ EOO
- has computer skills

1 Plastic Mold Designer
- has CAD/ CAM skills
- knowledgeable in mechanical parts design

Interested applicants may now send their comprehensive resumés ASAP (not later than April 26, 2001) to:

Ms. Jaymee Bermudez
39-E C. Raymundo St., Rotonda, Pasig City 1600
and to
arnel@hugle.co.jp (send as attachment)

For inquiries, kindly contact Jaymee at 641-4013 / 0919-8485211. Interviews will run from April 27-28, 2001.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SERVICE ENGINEER
- Male/Hardworking
- Mechanical Engineering Graduate
- Preferably with driver's license

SALES ENGINEER
- Female/Attractive
- Graduate of any Engineering course

SALES EXECUTIVE
- Female/Attractive
- College graduate/level

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT
- Female/Attractive
- Chemical Engineer or Chemistry graduate

ACCOUNTING CLERK/SECRETARY
- Female with typing skills
- Fluent in written, oral communication
- Preferably accounting graduate

Apply in person or send resumé with recent 2x2 picture to:

ELGEE Chemical Company
Suite 403 CLF Building
1167 Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 890-7209; 890-7185

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We need a dynamic sales person to promote and sell Scientific Instruments for quality control laboratories or food/beverages, chemical/pharmaceutical and various other industries engaged in research and development. He/She will be reporting directly to the Sales Manager.

Qualifications:
- Good technical background, graduate of CHE, BS Chemistry or Chemistry related course
- Preferably with sales experience in Scientific Instruments
- Proficient in both written and spoken English
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We offer excellent remuneration and benefits package for the selected applicants. Interested applicants may e-mail or fax their detailed resumé to our office.

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Help us fill this need while the opportunity is still wide open. Submit your resumé in person or visit us for more information. Look for Ms. Daisy Bella.

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A woman to teach English in an institute. Candidates should be unmarried, fluent in English and possess a University degree in one of the following:

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, ART OR ENGLISH.

Interview will be on May 4-6, 2001. Qualified applicants may contact any of the following:

1. Mr. Kim by e-mail at lpg9481@yahoo.co.kr
2. Anavel at cellphone no. 0919-5965937
3. Jamie at telephone no. 741-9010

GENERAL

WE ARE IN NEED OF:

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- College graduates, 22-28 years old
- Hardworking, honest and willing to work extended hours
- Flexible and with good communication skills
- Results-oriented and must have good interest in selling
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon.

For Qualified Applicants we offer: Salary, Commissions, Transportation allowance or Company Car; Bonuses for Quota Buster.

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From April 23 to April 30, 2001.
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Topic	Japanese Special Technical Terms, Japanese Practices, Customs and Skills
First Term Trainees	OPEN FOR NURSING PROFESSIONALS to accommodate 750 students/trainee as per schedule Selected by way of Intermediate exams
Qualifications	below 45 years old Graduates of Nursing or medical schools or colleges
Second Term Trainee	OPEN FOR CAR & PRECISION MECHANIC to accommodate 1500 students
Qualifications	Below 45 years old Graduate of College or Vocational Schools
Duration	6-12 months
Schedule	Monday to Friday / Saturday, Sundays & Holidays
Accommodation	50 students per class 15 to 17 classes (Two Shifts)
Third Term Trainees	OPEN TO VARIOUS TRADE OCCUPATIONS
After Third Term	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) for Engineers

Applicants Orientation Meeting
May 19, 2001, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Philippine International Convention Center
CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Deadline for submission of Application
First Term Students - May 21, 2001
Final Selection May 31, 2001

FOR REGISTRATION AND PRE QUALIFICATION SUBMIT OR SEND RESUMÉ 2-2 X2 COLORED PICTURES, DIPLOMA OR CERTIFICATE TO MLA. OFF. ONLY

MLA. OFF.: 3rd Flr., Suite 25 LEGASPI TOWERS 300, Roxas Blvd., cor. VitoCruz, Malate, Mla. Tel. 525-5387, 536-5451, Email: www.mapp@maap.org.ph

CAVITE: Don Bosco Executive Vill., Governors Drive, Brgy. Cabuco, Trece Martires

(NOTE: ACCEPTANCE OF REGISTRATION WILL START ON APRIL 17, 2001)

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EXPERIENCED MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES

(FOR BRANDED PRODUCTS)
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- Ambitious and Hardworking
- With pleasing personality
- Male / Female not more than 25 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- Experience would be an advantage but not necessary

We provide competitive salaries, commission and car plan to qualified applicants.

Apply in person or send your resumé with picture and Transcript of Records, to:

MG Prime Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
G/F Richmack Bldg., 72 Mindanao Ave. Q.C.
Tel. No. 929-6958 or 59, Fax 920-0306
E-mail: mgprime@i-next.net

IMMEDIATELY NEEDED

SALES ENGINEERS

- Engineering graduate, male/female, single
- Willing to undergo trainings
- Willing to receive salary plus commission
- Aggressive, persuasive, hardworking, self-motivated and has pleasing personality

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

- College graduate, male/female, single
- Has training experience in multi-level marketing operations
- With ability to recruit and develop new network members
- Willing to travel nationwide

ACCOUNTING STAFFS

- Accountancy graduate, male/female, single
- With 2 years experience in general accounting
- Must be computer literate
- Hardworking and willing to work overtime

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- College graduate, male/female, single
- Willing to undergo training
- Willing to earn unlimited income
- Possess an entrepreneurial mind

Qualified applicants may apply in person with NBI clearance, 2x2 picture and complete resumé at

TAYTAN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
Carolina's Building, 822 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City (beside Pegasus Club and BFAR)

Barangay Wack-Wack Greenhills East
Barangay Fire Brigade

FIRE TRUCK DRIVERS AND FIRE FIGHTERS/ RESCUERS

You want to help save lives and protect property? Here's your chance. If you possess the following qualifications and you think you have what it takes to become a member of this Fire Brigade, join us.

Qualifications:

1. Male
2. 21-30 years old
3. Preferably resident of Mandaluyong City
4. College graduate
5. At least 5'4" in height
6. Physically fit and must pass the following examinations:
   a. Medical
   b. Physical (4 km run with 30 kg load, 40 push-ups, 9 pull-ups, 41 sit-ups, and 6-feet standing long jump)

   Must have a professional driver's license. (Not mandatory for Fire Fighters/ Rescuers)
8. No derogatory record
9. Must have good moral character with letters of endorsement from the following:
   a. One of your college professors
   b. Prominent member of your community
   c. Parish Priest / Minister
10. Does not smoke and is not a heavy drinker

Secure an application form at

Barangay Wack-Wack Greenhills East
Rm. 9, 2/F Anglo Building, 715-A Shaw Boulevard,
Mandaluyong City

Contact Info
Contact Persons: Bhart Unlayao or Rosas Du
Tel. 718-1925, 723-3165 Cellphone: 0917-2091425, 0917-3365258
E-mail: trevuyne@skyinet.net, rosasdu@mosart.org

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- Excellent communication Skills
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- Basic Internet knowledge, an advantage but not a requirement
- Assertive
- Self-Motivated
- Willing to be trained
- Willing to work on commission basis
- Undergrads, students are welcome to apply!

Be a part of our Sales Team and receive training opportunities aside from the monetary commissions!

APPLY NOW! Send your resumés via facsimile: ***925-5801***. Via email: **careers@philonline.com**

FOR INQUIRIES, you may contact our Recruitment Office at 372-8081 local 123

A TV STATION WANTS YOU!!!

If you are creative, proficient in both oral and written communication and have the drive to make it big, then be part of the **SALES & MARKETING** team of a TV station.

Applicants must be 21-25 years old and should be graduates of Marketing or Masscom from UP, Ateneo, DLSU, UAP, Assumption, St. Scholastica and UST.

Send your resumé with recent photo not later than April 30, 2001 to:

GMC, 25/F PSBank Tower,
Ayala cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues,
Makati City 1200
Call 750-5000 or Fax 887-4241

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....TO HAVE NO REGULAR WORKING HOURS ?
....TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS ?
....TO HAVE HIGHER COMPENSATION ?

If YES then be a.....
NON-LIFE INSURANCE AGENT !!

We invite you to attend our 29th PRODUCT ORIENTATION AND SALES WORKSHOP (POSW) SEMINAR on April 27 & 28, 2001 from 8:30 am to 5:00 p.m. This two-day FREE seminar (inclusive of meals) will provide you with an overview of the different non-life insurance products our company offers.

(Seats are limited, kindly register early with our MS. ANNALYN BURCER)

ORIENTAL ASSURANCE CORPORATION
2/F OAC Bldg., San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 6317851 to 66 / Fax Nos. 6317815 to 16
website : www.oac.com / email: jcotoco@oac.com.ph

Y2K EMPLOYMENT AGENCY INC.

IS IN URGENT NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

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QUALIFICATIONS:
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- College graduate of any 4-year course
- With working experience in recruitment agency
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- And willing to travel to different provinces nationwide for provincial recruitment

1 Personnel Secretary of the Vice-President

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Female
- Between 21-25 years old
- A college graduate of any 4-year course
- Computer literate
- With pleasing personality

*****Please bring your comprehensive resumé, application letter and supporting documents to Y2K Employment Agency, G/F REDO Annex Bldg. 951 Remedios St. cor. San Marcelino St., Malate, Manila. Tel. No. 522-8173/522-8172 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

*****Please come in business attire.**

jay c. designs

A DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING FIRM IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

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- Knows how to operate CorelDraw
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- Female, single, at least 21 yrs. of age
- Preferably with work experience
- College graduate, computer literete

Please submit resumè with photo at:
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5/F, Building A, SM MEGAMALL * 635-6298

COMPUTER CRAFT CORPORATION

We are an expanding IT solutions company who is committed in providing the best products and services to our customers.

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Must be a graduate from reputable schools. 21 to 25 years old. Computer literate. Must be responsible, hardworking and self-motivated with excellent communication skills. Team player.

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Candidates must be a graduate from reputable schools. 21 to 25 years old. Computer literate. Must have basic knowledge in MS Word and Excel. Must be organized and hardworking. Must possess good oral and written communication skills.

Qualified applicants may send their application letter, resumé with photo and copy of transcript of records to:

Computer Craft Corporation
9629-31 Kamagong Street, Brgy. San Antonio
Makati City, Philippines
Tel. No. 899-3959 Loc. 130
E-mail: sales@mybusinessbox.com

Wendy's

is in need of

MOTORCYCLE DRIVERS

- ✔ Male, 20 to 28 years old, at least 5'5" in height
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PART-TIME CREW
(For its Makati stores)

- ✔ 18 to 23 years old
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Apply in person with bio-data and 2x2 recent photo at:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
WENPHIL CORPORATION
4th Flr., UMC Bldg., 900 U.N. Avenue
Ermita, Manila

A multinational company engaged in world-class "Mickey Mouse" brand food products is in need of

CONSUMER PRODUCTS SALESMEN AND EXECUTIVES

who:

1. Initial 10% Commission plus beneficial bonus
2. Would like to work on part-time basis
3. No working hours restriction

Any qualified sales representatives with existing customer contract may visit or call:

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9th Floor, Ramon Magsaysay Bldg.,
1680 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila
1-5PM Monday to Friday
(Look for Mr. Henson Tan / Mr. Beng Ko)
Tel. Nos. 400-5912 to 15

JOBMarket ONLINE
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com
Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

GENERAL

Company Profiles

(From page H1)

vices to multinational companies, financial institutions, and large local and foreign firms. At present, it has 17 offices in six countries, namely, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, and the Philippines. It is the first recruitment company in Southeast Asia to receive an ISO 9002 Certification.

Business Trends has further strengthened itself through a merger with Kelly Services, a Fortune 500 global staffing company with over 2000 offices worldwide. This merger has resulted in a formidable partnership built on expertise, technology, network and experience.

The company's core competencies in placements cater to three different markets. These are temporary staffing, permanent placements, and contract staffing services. Business Trends takes pride in its human resource information system (HRIS) called DEX, which gives the company fast and easy access to candidates when clients need them. In addition, Business Trends is the first company in Southeast Asia to go completely online on the Internet and to pioneer the use of the SkillCheck, a software skill assessment system from the United States. All these ensure that Business Trends' clients get only the best-qualified people.

Cebu Pacific

ON MARCH 8, 1996, two years after the airline industry was liberalized by the government, Cebu Pacific flew for the first time. In spite of skepticism, JG Summit Holdings, Inc (JGS), Cebu Pacific's single biggest stockholder, was determined to bring air travel closer to more Filipinos.

Cebu Pacific's beginnings were humble – 24 flights daily to and from three destinations. A little more than 18 months later, Cebu Pacific greeted its one millionth passenger.

It presently retains its status as the second largest airline in the country. Cebu Pacific also continues to be an industry leader in departure reliability with 95 percent of its flights and 84 percent on time to the minute.

On time performance, schedule reliability, and a smooth, comfortable flight are the things the air-traveling public has come to expect from Cebu Pacific. Because the company hires for attitude and trains for skills, the Cebu Pacific brand of personalized care and attention has become well known among travelers.

The company received its ISO 9002 certification in November 1999. In the same month, it became the first airline to be issued a company-wide ASQ 9002/121 certification by the Institute of Aviation Quality and Safety.

Chowking Food Corporation

CHOWKING Food Corp. gained entrance to the Philippines' highly competitive fast food industry in 1985, at a time when the field was dominated by Western-style burger joints. Focusing on its core competencies to create a different yet superior product, Chowking has stood the test of shifting tastes, changing lifestyles and a volatile market. It has developed its own set of loyal customers that keeps growing every year.

In 1989, in an aggressive bid to capture a bigger share of the market, the company initiated its franchising operations and entered the provinces. The twin move enabled the company to pursue an ambitious expansion program that has made Chowking the largest Oriental quick service (QSR) chain in the Philippines, enjoying high visibility in all the major cities and towns in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The turn of the millennium was a turning point for Chowking. On January 1, 2000, Chowking became a wholly owned subsidiary of Jollibee Foods Corporation, the largest restaurant chain in the Philippines.

Family First Incorporated

FAMILY First Inc. is a pre-need company offering a brighter future for its clients. It offers accidental death and disability benefits, educational, retirement, and family security plans. Availing of these plans prepares its customers for the unexpected. Good planning achieves financial security for a family's growing needs.

Family First, Inc. is part of Berkley International, LLC. Berkley is known for its world-class products and services in North and South America. Berkley now reaches out to Filipino families so that they can enjoy the benefits of Berkley's uncompromising standards, performance, financial strength, and stability.

The Berkley alliance means world-class performance. W.R. Berkley Corporation was established in 1967 and is ranked in the top 50 property and casualty groups in the United States with over US$4.6 billion in assets.

Family First, backed by the strength of its investors and the conviction of its customers, is growing at a phenomenal rate. In just three years, it has become an industry leader in terms of providing for the future of Filipino families.

Genetic Computer Institute

GENETIC Computer Institute (Philippines) is part of the international chain of training schools represented in 34 countries today. It provides quality IT training and international certification. GCI, its main objective to offer no less than a 100-percent learning guarantee, provides effective IT training at its best using state-of-the-art training facilities, comprehensive training manuals, unlimited refresher courses and even helpdesk services through personalized training.

GCI offers a variety of infotech courses in response to the growing demands: from short courses on operating systems, office productivity tools, programming languages, to desktop publishing and other graphic courses. Diploma, bachelor courses, and even post-graduate Courses are also offered. These specialized courses were designed to train students to be highly competent IT professionals in their chosen fields.

Infotech Professional Services, Incorporated

INFOTECH Professional Services, Inc. (Ipsi) provides employment and manpower-related services to its clients both here and abroad. Ipsi aims to be the premium human resource, consulting and manpower placement bureau in the field of the Information Technology (IT) in the Philippines, and eventually the world. It delivers premium human resource development and management services to its clients. Through various programs, Ipsi finds and develops IT professionals for best business performances.

The Ipsi Service:

I. Pre-Employment Services – Ipsi facilitates the selection and hiring process through its various pre-employment services.

II. Development Programs – Ipsi makes sure its corporate clients are supplied with professionals fully-equipped to meet global challenges.

III. Special Programs – Ipsi offers tailor-made programs to facilitate the selection and hiring of professionals in the IT industry.

IV. Career Management Program for Individuals – New graduates and even professionals who wish to make a career change can enroll in Ipsi's Career Management Program (CPM).

Insular Life Insurance Company

ESTABLISHED on Nov. 25, 1910, Insular Life is the first, largest, and still the only Filipino mutual life insurance company. For over eight decades, Insular life has faithfully carried out its mission to provide financial security to Filipino families. A highlight of its history is the fact that it continued its operation even during World War II, earning for the company the reputation of dependability and strength. This gave rise to the company slogan: "When someone depends on you, you can depend on Insular Life". Reflective of its pioneering and innovative spirit, it has distinguished itself in a number of "firsts". The company was the first to lower insurance premium rates and the first to set up a training school for insurance. It introduced group insurance and industrial life insurance in the country. It also pioneered in the direct marketing of life insurance. The most significant among these "firsts" was its conversion from a stock company owned by a few stockholders to a mutual company where policyholders share in its profits and receive dividends which, in effect, reduce the cost of their insurance.

While life insurance remains its core business, Insular Life also aims to become a one-stop full financial service institution. In 1990, the company diversified into allied financial services to offer its policyholders a broader range of services. Within a span of three years, it established four wholly owned subsidiaries: I-Care, a health maintenance organization; Insular General; Insular Investment and Trust corporation; and Insular Life Savings and Trust Company, better known as Insular Savings Bank.

JIDECO Manufacturing Phils. Inc.

"JIDECO" stands for Jidosha Denki Kogyo Co., Ltd. *Jidosha* means automotive, *denki* is electrical and *kogyo* means machinery or equipment. Jideco is a Japanese firm engaged in the manufacture and supply of electrical parts for automotive products. Its products range from motors to wiper products and motor applicable products and systems, including control modules. It was founded Sept. 6, 1947 with its head office at Totsukaku, Yokohoma, Japan.

Jideco has successfully focused its efforts on quality amidst its founders' philosophy of creativity, technology and spirit. Its mission is to provide customers worldwide with security, safety, comfort and satisfaction using mechatronics technologies. Jideco is dedicated to continuously search for solutions to customers' needs.

Today the Jideco Group manufactures over 20 million motors. Production will be bolstered by sales expansion plans. Meanwhile, the large-scale transfer of manufacturing to overseas locations is under way, paving the way for the price reduction of Jideco products.

MSI–Digiland

PARTNERSHIPS that last are part of the mainstream strategy of MSI–Digiland (Phils.), Inc. A regional company backed by 15 years of local distribution expertise of Microcircuits Systems International, Inc. (MSI) and the extensive and the strong distribution and infrastructure of Digiland Pte. Ltd., MSI–Digiland aims to bring along its partners in working for the fulfillment of the global promise of information technology.

Digiland Pte. Ltd. is the Singapore-based distribution base arm of GES International Ltd., which designs and manufactures *Datamini* computers and assembles HP Brio PCs.

MSI-Digiland, being the local subsidiary, is affirming total consumer care. The venture will continue to cater to the various hardware and software requirements of the changing times. Together with partners, MSI-Digiland wants to extensively build an industry that can compete globally now.

Digiland, with all its subsidiaries worldwide, keeps a remarkable relationship with Hewlett-Packard and other major IT companies such as IBM, NEC, and Sony. This partnership helps complement existing product lines with various products and components. MSI-Digiland banks on these partnerships to become a leading computer hardware distributor in the country.

Penshoppe

THE force behind Penshoppe, the most outstanding Filipino retailer of 2000, is Golden ABC, Inc., a local corporation engaged in the marketing and retailing of ready-to-wear garments for the Philippine market.

Golden ABC Inc. ventured into the garment business in 1986 and has since then taken the fast and unconventional lane in penetrating the country's clothing industry. It is reputed for its determination and innovation. Crises have marked its radical story of success. A bloodless revolution occurred during Penshoppe's launch in 1986. A volcano erupted during the opening of its first retail store in 1991. Disastrous typhoons and an Asian economic crisis were raging at the height of the company's expansion program, which was tied with an ambitious undertaking to integrate its system via enterprise resource planning provided by a German-based software company System Application Programming or SAP.

Today, Golden ABC enjoys market dominance for anchor brand Penshoppe and healthy market shares for its other brands. Its distribution network includes over 100 company-owned retail stores and 400 shop-in stores all over the Philippines.

The company's longstanding vision of providing Filipinos with clothing brands that live up to international standards is backed by a strong faith in God and belief on the commendable capabilities of the Filipinos both as a work force and as consumers. The same confidence will see Golden ABC through as it integrates itself into the global economy and the Internet.

Peoplesupport

TWO entrepreneurs—Lance Rosenz-weig and David Nash—teamed up in 1998 to create Peoplesupport, named to underscore the value and allure of human interaction on the Internet. Peoplesupport is a company that offers a simple option: a customizable service that enables e-business to select from a full-range of best-of-breed tools to meet their unique online customer care needs. Peoplesupport provides a blend of human (eRepstm) and technical resources so clients can create a combination of customer care services available on a 24/7 basis.

Peoplesupport gives online shoppers instant access to live sales assistance, customer support and technical support by bringing the human touch to online e-commerce sites. With Peoplesupport's flexible services, e-business can implement a customer care package that contains only the specific options selected only for success. While customer satisfaction is critical, different e-commerce sites will use live text chat and other customer-care services in different ways. Peoplesupport offers clients the options to either insource, outsource or cosource the company's customized services to offer the best solution for each client's needs.

Professional Staffers/ Staff Builders Asia

PROFESSIONAL Staffers, a division of John Clements Consultants, Inc., is the pioneer and leader in professional staff recruitment. The company has been placing professionals from staff to junior managerial level with top multinational and local firms for 25 years. Its vision is to be the leader in professional staff and junior managerial recruitment through consistent enhancements of its processes and by developing partnerships with its customers and suppliers (candidates), thereby ensuring continuous growth for the company. What the company offers is to explore varied career opportunities with its clients. Whether for current or for future manpower requirements of these client companies, it would be worthwhile for individuals to be included in its pool of talents. The company can provide job opportunities, not all of which are advertised, which it handles for clients and the option to consider higher job responsibilities or better remuneration packages. Companies need not undergo the tedious steps involved in the search and selection process. Talents need not go through the exhausting process direct job applicants experience.

Standard Marking Systems

STANDARD Marking Systems started operations in 1993, during the time multinational IT firms began locating their business operations here in the Philippines. Other favorable factors like the lowering of duties on computer products and the liberalization of the banking industry paved the way for the company's rapid growth.

The company now boasts of being one of the leading distributors of mobile IT products in the Philippines. It now markets 3Com networking solutions, Palm Organizers, Hewlett-Packard servers, workstations and printers, Compaq servers and workstations, IBM servers and workstations, and Kingston and KEF memory upgrades. Standard Marking Systems now enjoys the status of being the exclusive distributor of Twinhead brand Notebook Computers in the Philippines. The current Efio! Series notebook computers boast of a sleek form factor that packs power while being competitively priced.

Standard Marking System provides computer hardware sales and network system integration to end-user clients. It is also engaged in wide distribution dealer channels to provide growth in sales of distributed products.

The JLF Group of Companies

SERVICE with all the trimmings and premium upshots, absolutely nothing less. That's the JLF Group of Companies rolled into one complete tagline. Since its inception three years ago, the JLF Group has established a popular reputation for providing the most fun, most talked-about and most successful entertainment events in town and abroad.

Spearheaded by entertainment impresario Jacob Fernandez, JLF Group's Concert, Event and Talent Management center is the dynamic force behind successful events such as the Martin Nievera XVII, Divine Madness, Respect Me, Seduct Me and Abuse Me, and top fashion shows like Inno Sotto; 21st century and Bikini Bodies.

JLF Group also carries out promotional shows and product launches for various sectors of commerce and businesses. In 1999, it launched Don Jaime Zobel's World Wild Life Fund. And the well-attended Lancomé Resurface Launch.

The JLF Group also has two ultra-chic and modern music taverns that boast of fine dining and quality entertainment. The south's classiest and premier dance spot Club Spoon and Coby's Music Café, the cozy and well-appointed music hall.

At JLF Group of Companies, business and leisure are smooth contradictions that make up an electric and fun-filled lifestyle. After all, what is life without a dash, and more, of entertainment?

U-BIX Corporation

U-BIX Corp is the Philippines' leading office systems and services provider. A Top 300 Corporation, it has over P1 billion in annual revenues. Its objective is to provide comprehensive, integrated products and services to the customer base the office market. This objective is premised on the concept of offering a "one-stop-shop" option to anyone who needs office equipment, furniture, and office-related services.

U-Bix was founded on Feb. 11, 1974 by Edilberto B. Bravo and Enrique M. Belo. The company began as the exclusive distributor of Konica copiers for the Philippines, moving on to do local assembly of copiers in 1976. In 1979, a milestone in the company's history was marked when U-Bix became No. 1 in the photocopier industry.

Since then, the company has evolved into an integrated office systems services provider, acquiring a number of distribution agreements for other office products. Over the past 24 years, the market share of U-Bix's major product lines has consistently placed it among the Top 3 in the office systems industry. U-Bix is also one of the most profitable.

U-Bix carries only products and services with strong brand names. In most cases, strength of the brand in the Philippines is due to U-Bix's own marketing efforts in building the brand to become a market leader.

Villman Computer Systems, Incorporated

VILLMAN Computer Systems, Inc. is engaged in wholesale and retail of computers, parts and peripherals. The company started operations in 1992 as VillMan Computer Systems. For nearly a decade, the company has provided its customers with quality products and services, reliable and effective after-sales service and warranty support, updated product information and access to new developments in technology.

VCSi has already won several awards from suppliers such as Viewsonic and MAG Monitors, Compaq, Intel Microprocessors, ASUSTeK Mainboard & Controller Products, Diamond Multimedia Products, Seagate Hard Drives, US Robotics Communications Products, and Hewlett-Packard Printers. VCSi has become one of the first members of Microsoft OEM-Partner Circle of Ten. VCSi was awarded the Creative Labs Sound Blaster Master Dealer of the Year by Lamco International in 1995 and 1996. In 1996, VCSi became a member of Genuine Intel Dealers (GID) and awarded as one of the top GIDs in 1998 by Intel Microelectronics Philippines. The company is a recognized Hewlett-Packard retail outlet and is now an HP authorized service center.

Shoemart Group of Companies

SM Department Store is the heart of SM's retail network. With branches strategically located in Metro Manila and in the southern Philippine cities of Iloilo and Cebu, it is the acknowledged innovator and trendsetter in the Philippine retail scene.

SM Department Store's popular theme "We've Got It All" has, through the years, become the country's unofficial shopping anthem for generations of shoppers from all walks of life. At SM there has been an exciting merchandise mix, world-class interiors, a one-stop shopping concept, service and value-plus pricing that have made it part of the lives of many Filipinos.

SM had its beginnings when Henry Sy, Sr. opened the first Shoemart store on October 1958 in downtown Manila. The company expanded its shoe store chain in the sixties, and marked its shift from a store to a full line department store in the '1970s.

Today, SM is a dynamic group of companies committed to the highest level of talent, service and expertise in the retail merchandising and shopping center industries. SM has been named one of Asia's most admired companies in surveys undertaken by a prestigious Asian business magazine. More recently, it has been honored as the best Philippine company for strategy and management by Asiamoney, as well as the best managed company in the Philippines by the UK-based Euromoney magazine.

Mary Kay Cosmetics

MARY Kay Cosmetics is a billion dollar enterprise. It is a company for women, a company to believe in and a company with a heart. It was established by Mary Kay Ash (of Houston, Texas) on Sept. 13, 1963 with a mission to "enrich women's lives". The mother office is located in Dallas, Texas. In the Philippines, Mary Kay Cosmetics is found at the La Fuerza Compound at 2241 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Launched with goals of providing women with unlimited opportunity for personal and financial success, offering quality products to consumers, and providing fulfilling careers to employees. Mary Kay Cosmetics employs 800,000 consultants in 37 countries.

At Mary Kay, God comes first, family second, career third.

UBX

U-BIX CORPORATION, a leading provider of office equipment, furniture and related office services, is now accepting applications for ---

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(Metro Manila, Angeles, Sta. Rosa)

- College graduates, not over 28 years old
- At least one year field sales experience
- Good communication skills; able to provide prompt and accurate reports
- Hardworking, assertive individuals who can stand challenges

TELEMARKETING EXECUTIVE
(PDI-TME)

- College graduates, not over 25 years old
- At least one year exposure in call center operations and/or outbound telemarketing
- Service-oriented, with knowledge in prospecting and indirect selling through phone
- Mature, responsible and can work effectively in a fast-paced environment

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS
(PDI-CSO)

- Graduates from country's top universities; with degree in marketing or any business course
- Willing to do field work to personally interact with corporate clients
- Service-oriented and personable individuals; having business writing skills is an advantage
- Must be responsible, persevering and mature; not over 25 years old

We offer full compensation during the training period

Qualified applicants are requested to mail their resume with photo and transcript of records to

(POSITION CODE)
Recruitment and Training Group
1331 Angono St., J.P. Rizal Makati City
or e-mail us at ubxhrd@i-next.net

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A smart and personable female; college graduate of any course (Business orientation an advantage) with excellent interpersonal and communication skills; previous telemarketing experience, a plus.

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You may apply personally or mail your Resume with 2x2 ID picture, Transcript of Records, and phone numbers to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
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- Good command of English
- Can do training materials and user's manual
- Team player with minimal supervision
- Pleasing personality

Interested qualified applicants may send their resumé with recent photo at the following address or via e-mail.

JIMAC, INCORPORATED
HR DEPARTMENT
Room 602 Metropolitan Terraces Condominium
Sacred Heart St., corner Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City
e-mail address: hrd@jimac-inc.com

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- ABC Store Inc.
- Add Force Personnel Services Inc.
- AMA Computer College
- Business Trends
- Cebu Pacific
- Chowking Food Corporation
- Corporate Executive Search
- Family First
- Genetic Computer Institute
- Infotech Professional Services Inc.
- Insular Life Insurance Company
- Jideco Manufacturing Philippines Inc.
- Mary Kay
- MSI-Digiland (Phil.), Inc.
- Penshoppe
- Peoplesupport
- Professional Staffers/Staff Builders Asia
- Shoemart Group of Companies
- Standard Marking Systems Phils. Inc.
- The JLF Group of Organizations
- UBIX Corporation
- Villman Computer Systems Inc.

FILL-OUT OUR RESUMÉ RESERVE FORM VIA COMPUTER OR BRING YOUR RESUMÉS INTENDED FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES:

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- All Asia Garment Industries
- Apti Philippines Inc.
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- Channel Technologies
- Cocolife
- Comfac
- Compassion International
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- Continental Beverage
- Copylink Enterprises
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- Dr. Declan Walsh
- Eastern Shipping Lines
- Ecolab
- Elgee Chemical Company
- GHT Services Inc.
- Golden Mediamiles Corp.
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- Marie France
- Max's Inc.
- Medicard Philippines
- MG Prime Pharmaceutical
- Monde Nissin Corp.
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- Southeastern College
- Spark Graphics
- Sysu International
- Taytan Interntional
- Titanium Technologies
- Transnational Food Services
- Wenphil Corp.
- Y2K Employment Agency

VCS VillMan COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.

Wendy's HAMBURGERS

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SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

April 22, 2001

Volume 14 No. 7

Home on the Road

Filipinos on the Philippines

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In Sacred Time

Were I to write a poem
I'd include orthochromatic wings
Dawn songs
Very plain.

And myself in a canoe
On waters of silence
With my five angels
Hearts could see.

The tour would be about long issues
Perigrinus
Furious brutes are not such scare
When the realm waits.

Brother first you are welcome
To my resting cave
Whoever you be
Whatever transgression you did me.

We'd talk
Shadow to shadow
In the total dark
Just us truly.

Masks on fire would fall
Like confessions to a desert father
By the ritual of dying
We'd all be redressed.

Luminously we'd row together
Beyond rediscovered lands
Walk ashore trampling spiny memories
Unto the field of ascension.

Jun Cañizares

Isaw

Laman sa laman.

Sa ganitong paraan lamang
Natutugunan ng pagsuyo
Ang ating pagkagutom,
Sa panaka-nakang pagkanlong
Sa lilim nitong akasyang
Tatlong parilya ang kandong.
Walang likat na pumupukaw
Ang pabango mong maanghang-
Matamis sa likaw
Ng aking nangangasim na sikmura.
Ikaw na hubad na nakatambad
Sa parilyang nagbabaga,
Namumula, namumutla,
Nag-iinit sa pananabik
Na malasahan ang aking
Marahang pagkagat, paghalik;
Ikaw na sa bulong ko'y
Nakikiliti, na napapakislot
Sa bawat lunggati
Ng aking dila at labi—
Ay, ikaw na aking pag-ibig!
Ito ang ating lunademiyel:

Nag-ugat sa pagtuhog
At sa puson nalilipos;
Nag-umpisa sa gutom
At sa dighay natatapos.

Laman sa laman,
Hanggang kamatayan.

Kristoffer B. Berse

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine is accepting contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed a copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Cover Story, page 3

The Cover Image Different faces of the Pinoy wanderer: (clockwise from left) BenCab at home in Bagulo, Daphne Oseña fishing in Palawan, and Anita Feleo and David Sheniak go window-dressing in Lucban

Sunday Inquirer Magazine
Vol. 14 No. 7
April 22, 2001
ISSN 0116 - 232X

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THE SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808 locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines
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Cover Story
by Daphne Oseña

What happens when the three chic and fashionable TV hosts of "F" decide to do a "Survivor" trip in the mangroves and forests of Palawan? One of them, Daphne Oseña, recounts what the challenge was like for three bonafide city slickers – and the lessons they learned in patience, compromise and trust

Roughing It Up

IT ALL STARTED OUT WITH AN IDEA I GOT FROM READING THE "CHARLIE'S ANGELS" COVER STORY IN MARIE CLAIRE MAGAZINE A FEW MONTHS BACK. DREW, CAMERON AND LUCY WERE PUT ON A SURVIVAL CHALLENGE, LEFT OUT IN THE DESERT FOR THREE DAYS WITH NOTHING BUT THE CLOTHES THEY HAD ON. I THOUGHT WE "F" GIRLS COULD BE THE LOCAL VERSION, AND SINCE OUR SHOW WAS CELEBRATING ITS SECOND ANNIVERSARY, WE COULD TURN IT INTO A GREAT SHOW. OUR PRODUCER CHI ALMARIO BOUGHT THE IDEA. AND SO BEGAN A LITTLE EXPERIMENT IN REALITY-BASED TELEVISION THAT WOULD PUT ME THROUGH THE TOUGHEST CHALLENGE OF MY TV CAREER.

"There is truly something very humbling about being stripped of all your material belongings, accepting each other's weaknesses—and relying on each other's strengths"

We wanted the audience to know the three of us – Angel Aquino, Cher Calvin and Daphne Oseña – the way we know each other in real life. That is, minus the bright lights of ABS-CBN's studios, the make-up, and the glamorous sponsored clothes and high heels we put on every Saturday night at 11.

Our home base was a luxury resort, Dos Palmas, on Honda Bay. The idea was to be left alone on a deserted island in Palawan, then to find our way towards our campsite in the mainland. We were to pick up clues and maps while earning our bare necessities along the way. We had only a change of clothes, a Nutribar and a 500ml bottle of water each in our knapsacks. My face wash and concealer, Cher's Knorr soup mix and Angel's sunscreen were all confiscated. Our skin was covered in salt water, sweat, sunscreen, dust and *libag* for two days – no shower, no soap, no nothing.

A week before we got to Palawan, we went through survival training with the Damong Ligaw mountaineers. They taught us how to pitch a tent, how to light different types of gas lamps, how to purify water, and how to rapel down a vertical wall. But aside from the skills, the Damong Ligaw stressed the "leave no trace" principle. As Damong Ligaw member Rey De Vera says, "The most common mistake mountaineers make is to pollute the places they visit. You must take your garbage back down with you. Remember that you are only a visitor and that local customs already exist, so you have to respect the locals and pay them a 'courtesy call.'" This is important, especially in places like the Olangoan River Park, which is still virtually uncharted territory. We were the first TV crew to go up there, and its trails and hanging-bridges were just newly established.

Grand feast of rice and fish for survivors Angel Aquino, Daphne Oseña and Cher Calvin

We didn't try daredevil stunts; the most we had to do was rapel down the rocks of Olangoan Falls, but it was actually a lot easier than the vertical wall we jumped off in Quezon City during our training.

The most difficult part for me was the mental challenge. I kept thinking to myself, "Why do I have to do this? What do I have to prove? Who cares if I get through this ordeal?" I was also annoyed by the fact that a camera was pointed at me for 48 hours. If this was a real emergency survival situation I wouldn't really care about concealing my blemishes. But in this reality-TV genre, I still had to care about how I looked. We had to put on a good show, without a script, without a plan. It was more than a test of physical endurance; those two days were also a test of our friendship and patience with each other.

Our first mission was to get to Barlas Island and find our way through the mangroves. We got there by boat. Upon arrival we were greeted by three little boxes, from which we each had to choose one. The first challenge was for me to eat the contents of my box, and I would win three life vests and two fishing rods for our team. I picked the box with four *okras* in it instead of the ones with *ampalaya* and *alugbati* leaves.

Cher's challenge was the hardest one. She picked the box with seaweed in it, which was better than picking the *balut*, but even then Cher couldn't take the taste of it. We were all helpless. Cher swallowed every part of the seaweed in order to win our sleeping bags, while Angel and I watched with pity. "Good thing the camera focused on Angel and Daphne because I was actually vomiting," she recalls. Cher actually reached an emotional breaking point; during her on-cam interview, she cried. She realized that during difficult times like these, it's important to not be so far away from those you love, referring to her dad and her boyfriend Geri, who are both in New York.

On Barlas Island we found a map complete with diagrams and clues about catching fish for lunch. Our big mission was for two of us to catch fish for lunch, while the other one cooked the rice in a burner that we also earned along the way. Angel volunteered to cook. "For me the cooking part was the most frustrating. I couldn't remember what the mountaineers taught us during training. I couldn't get the flame started. There was a lot of pressure on me, because if I failed, Cher and Daphne would starve. But when I did it successfully I was proud."

Cher and I felt the same kind of pressure because we had to catch fish; otherwise there would be no *ulam* to go with Angel's rice! I

Catching the big fish: Daphne and Cher wait for a bite

caught two and Cher caught two, using raw squid as bait. The trick in fishing is to be really patient. Don't move your rod too much or you'll scare the fish. Be sensitive to the little fish bites. If you're observant enough, you'd feel it nibbling. Then you have to know when to reel it in. If you do it too soon or too fast, your fish can get away. But if you go nice and slow, you catch a big fish. There's a life lesson here. I figured this is a good strategy in relationships, especially when dealing with the man of your dreams!

At the campsite, we earned our dinner – one can of tuna fish and one can of pork and beans. The only meal we had so far was the lunch that we cooked – four baby fish with no seasoning, and Angel's rice which I had dropped on the soil. (We still ate it despite the sand and dirt, though. Life lesson? Just shave off the dirty part on top.) Needless to say, we were famished. But Cher wanted to ration our food and open just one can in case we didn't get breakfast the next day. Angel and I wanted to devour both cans. After consultation, we opened both cans. But as Murphy's Law would have it, Angel ended up spilling half of the tuna. "I felt so bad I wanted to cry!" Angel recalls.

Our sleeping conditions were unbelievable! We set up our tent on the flattest part of the riverbank, which was covered with round stones. We had a comfy air mattress on one half of the tent, and just a thin sleeping bag on the other. We tried it horizontally so the three of us would get the soft part, but that meant a fetal position for all, leading to possible leg cramps. In the end we went for a variation of lengthwise.

Of the three girls, I was probably the most stressed out about the trip. I've been labeled "most paranoid girl in F" by our staff. Fortunately there were no major emergencies except for Damong Ligaw mountaineer Pol Yambao being bitten by a very mean centipede while he was setting up our rapelling challenge at the falls. Pol was injected with painkillers and taken to the local hospital. He was okay. Pol's centipede encounter was a story in itself. Angel, Cher and I were totally oblivious about the whole incident, which was the way our producers wanted it. They knew we would panic!

While the medical team was rescuing Pol by the falls, Cher and I were about to take a dip in the water a few meters away from the emergency situation. We had just about had enough of peeing out in the bushes, so we thought, since we came this far and did everything by the book (like peeing 10 meters away from a water source), maybe this once, doing it underwater wouldn't hurt. We couldn't hold it in anymore, so we jumped into the water – but our executive producer came running, screaming and flailing her arms. She was thinking, centipede bite. But we were thinking, it's just pee! Just the same, we were pulled out.

After Barlas Island, we reached the mainland by boat. We were instructed to follow a national road leading towards Olangoan River Park, 10 kilometers away. The challenge was to hitch hike. We got an air-conditioned L300 on our first try. It was easy; we were three girls in short shorts! But what the stranger in the van didn't know was that we had a crew of 13 with us. The first L300 took us half way. Then we walked uphill for about 20 minutes until we found another van. Angel was so impressed with the kindness of strangers. Rey says they usually rely on dump trucks and delivery vans to get them from one point to another. Apparently hitch hiking was normal for mountaineers.

No firestarter: How do you get a flame started? a frustrated Angel Aquino asks

I was most touched with how people in the rural areas were so friendly and accommodating. While on the rural road I really had to pee. I couldn't find a bush, so I held it in for as long as I could. The first *bahay kubo* I saw became my toilet in the wilderness. I had no idea it would be so easy. All I did was ask the owner of the house if I could use their bathroom, and they took me to a *banyo* complete with porcelain toilet bowl.

I still get flashes of little things that happened during the trip: the harsh reality of not having soap to rinse off the dirt; the time when I changed from my tank top into my bathing suit under water while I trusted the guys not to peek from the shore; changing clothes while balancing inside a *malong*; being so pissed off because of the heavy knapsack and the heat and dust; and being really, really hungry. Then I realized that we just had a once-in-a-lifetime experience that many people don't even get to dream of. We trekked the Palawan rainforest. We saw eagles flying and bearcats running in the wild. We slept alone in the wilderness amidst squirrels, snakes and monitor lizards. And when we reached the peak of the waterfalls, Angel, Cher and I took a refreshing dip in the cool water. Angel couldn't swim too well so we both held her and went to the mouth of the falls. There we laughed like children for no reason at all. It could have been the full moon or the stars that were all over the Palawan sky that night.

Was the Palawan "Survivor" episode a success? "Yes," according to then-executive producer Chi Almario. "It was one of the highest rating shows that week. But more than that I think the girls learned a few lessons about life in general, which was what we wanted. The show had no script, so I had to rely on the turn of events. I had to make sure everything worked out safely and that we would still have a good show. Now I know I can carry the whole team, if not physically, then just by my own will!"

I now look at the pictures and see that we were actually smiling and having fun the whole time. Not only did the audience get to see us in our most natural state, but we also saw each other in a different light. In a way, we've been spoiled by our job. We host a very glamorous lifestyle magazine show, and everyone is nice to us. We've been friends for two years. We share things. We had traveled together before, but always first class. But this was the first time we were together for 48 hours straight. There is truly something very humbling about being stripped of all your material belongings, accepting each other's weaknesses – and relying on each other's strengths.

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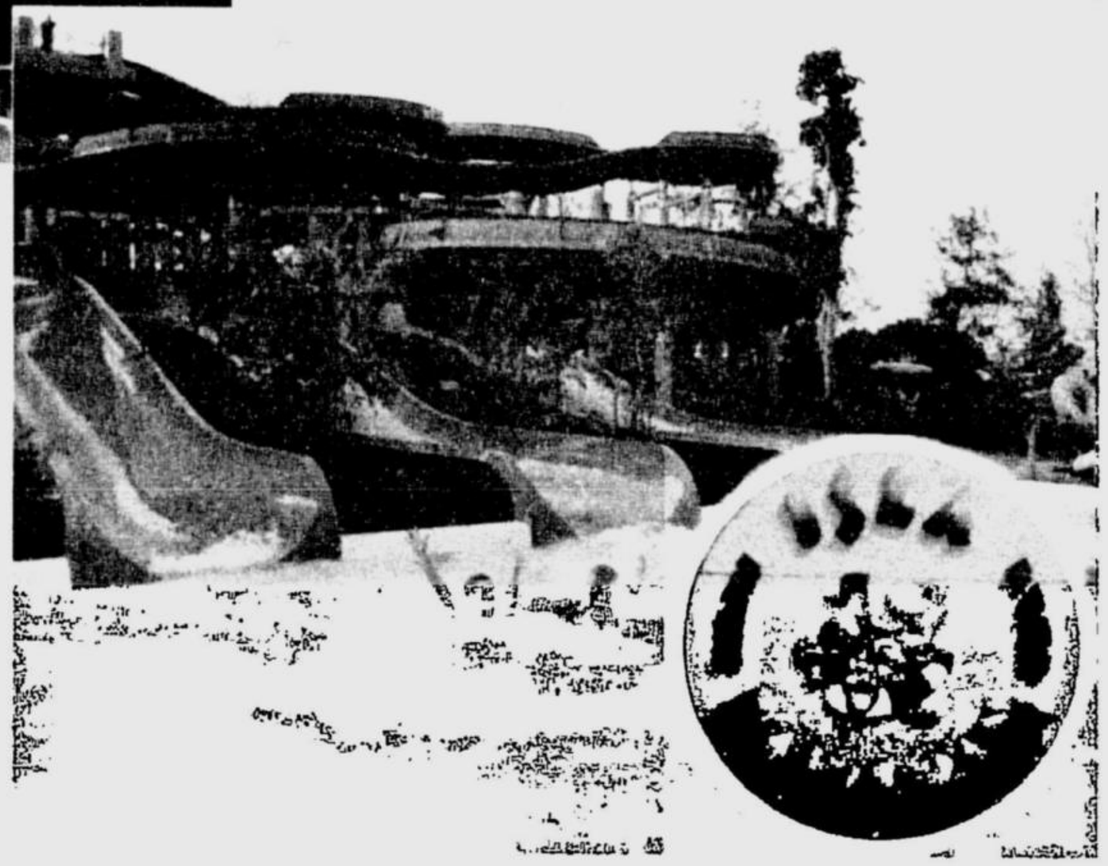

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by Anita Feleo & David Sheniak

Two wandering travel writers talk about the constant lure of the road – and the rewards of settling down far from the din of the city

Following the

SOME PEOPLE WORK IN OFFICES. OUR OFFICE IS THE PHILIPPINES – THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES, THE RIVERS AND SEAS, THE MOUNTAINS AND THE OPEN FIELDS. ON ANY GIVEN WORK DAY THAT IS WHERE YOU MIGHT FIND US.

We have always been "road people." For us there is nothing more exciting than following the white line on the highway and then discovering where it leads. Separately, for the first few decades of our lives, we had been seeking out those white lines in the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Now, together, we are looking for them in the Philippines. And so far we've unearthed a treasure trove.

Separately, for the first few decades of our lives, we had been seeking out those white lines in the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Now, together, we are looking for them in the Philippines

Eleven years ago, when we moved to Manila from New York, we discovered that for the majority of Filipinos, travel meant hopping on a plane and heading for a different continent. Fortunately, over the years, they began discovering that some of the very best in both touring and traveling could be had right in their own backyard. We can only hope that through our travel books and articles we are playing a small part in spreading this new trend.

One evening at a dinner party we asked our friends' young daughter what she would like to do when she grows up. Her reply, "I want to do what you do, travel around and get paid for it." We wish it was that easy. As a famous prima ballerina said, "Dancing looks like fun because you don't see the dead toenails." Travel writers have their share of dead toenails, too. Each trip can take weeks of planning, reams of correspondence, and that still isn't enough. We have spent days on dust buses only to find a destination with nothing to show but a tree and a rock. Or that the person we came to interview "moved to Manila six months ago" – our correspondent just forgot to tell us.

On top of the paperwork travel writers need a strong bladder, enough antibodies to ward off rural buggies, and the panache to endure the less glamorous side of the trade. Touring the countryside we might find ourselves eating noodles for breakfast, lunch and dinner, which we refer to as the "*pancit* express." Or pancakes, without butter or syrup, but generously topped with pork and beans straight from the can (we have no pet name for that one). How many times did we have to make do with primitive plumbing? At the wildlife reservation in Calauit, Palawan, the toilet was little more than just a hole in the floor, but it posed other inconveniences as well such as prehistoric insects, monitor lizards and the occasional snake. Or worse. We've often come close to writing 30. Several years ago, while we were sailing back to Coco Beach from a full day's excursion into the interiors of Puerto Galera, a violent storm broke out. Our small *banca* had only kerosene lamps for light, which at 12 midnight, amid the roiling black sea and sheets of rain, didn't throw a spark. In order to avoid capsizing, a very real possibility, we docked at a natural inlet about a kilometer from the resort. We then had to climb over sharp coral and slippery rocks, in the dark, pressing against the wind, soaked to the bone, to reach our home base. But it was all part of a day at the "office."

Sometimes disasters have a lighter side. When we were editing the travel page of Today, we wrote to Amanpulo to interest them in inviting us over for a story.

The chi-chi resort's Hong Kong office gave us a call. "This is for USA Today, right?" asked the sweet voice on the other end of the line. PR girl, we thought. "No," we replied as sweetly, "it's for the Philippine newspaper Today." Dead air. We never heard from her again.

As to getting paid for the good time, we hate to disappoint our friend's daughter. Travel writing in the Philippines, unless you're talking about coffee-table books, won't pay the rent. If truth be told, it is mostly deficit spending. Which is why in between trips we work the trenches, doing commercial editorial jobs.

Still, the rewards of travel writing far outweigh the difficulties and low wages. Imagine standing at the mouth of Tabon Cave, the doorstep of the oldest known *Homo sapiens* in the Philippines; sailing across Brooke's Point under a canopy of stars that would make the Haydn Planetarium's domed star roof look amateurish; listening to a chamber orchestra while bobbing on a lagoon and sipping champagne in Palawan; taking part in the anguished, heartbreaking Good Friday procession in Pakil; sucking on the orgiastic *lampirong*, a shellfish whose meat hints of oyster and scallop, or pigging out on squid fat at Aboy's Kamalig in Bacolod.

Then there are the people who make a trip worthwhile such as Trinidad Ykalina, a precious 91-year-old when we met her in Valladolid, Negros Occidental. She toured us around her ancestral house, annotating every nook and cranny with stories of musical soirées and political caucuses from a long ago age. Apu Abelardo of Mexico, Pampanga, also recalls a time long gone. In the tradition of 12th century scribe-monks he transcribes by hand copies of the *Pasyon* when he is not doing carpentry. For the last 30 years, Jose Pascua has been dressing up as a woman to lead the Elejer, a summertime Marian procession in Los Baños attended mainly by women; it is his way of atoning for his sin of a single day. Capt. Danny Crisologo sells fantasy at two miles up aboard a World War II C-47 Skytrain he himself restored. "If you merely want to get there, take a commercial flight," he says, "but if you want to dream, fly with

In Mt. Cristobal's shadow: Road warriors Anita Feleo and David Sheniak at home in Laguna

A robot stands in the background of this bizarre lahar-scape, while David and Anita sit in the foreground

us." True enough, the sight of Captain Danny, outfitted in his vintage jump suit, sitting in the cockpit, looking through the four-paned "V" windscreen and giving the thumb's up signal makes you feel like you're in an Errol Flynn movie.

We can go on and on, because we have found that around the next curve in the road there might always be an unexpected jewel. And sometimes an entire province that is taken for granted can be a jewel box.

During the nine years we lived in Manila, we considered Laguna, our neighbor to the south, a place to visit for a hot bath. Then two years ago a house became available in Bay and we had to make a decision. Should we give up crowds, bus fumes and air that you can see for mountains, rice fields and solitude? Friends and family cautioned us: "Don't go, it's too remote," "It's a cultural wasteland," and the most serious consideration, "How can you maintain an editorial company living in the province?"

Obviously we didn't heed the warnings; we moved to Bay without much ado. Everything seems to have turned out for the best. The first thing we found out was that we aren't that far away. Using the Skyway and taking advantage of the new traffic patterns in and around EDSA, if we avoid the rush hours, we are, as the real estate ads say, just an hour-and-a-half away from Makati. The strange thing is that we were an hour-and-a-half away from Makati in our old Caloocan house too.

True, we miss the city's adrenaline rush, but every time we drive to Manila we can't wait to get back to our serene cocoon. Neil Cruz recently used up two valuable columns in the *Inquirer* gushing over fireflies in a park near his house. We have those little critters dancing on our patio almost every night. We also have cows outside our gate and crows nestling in our trees. Butterflies feed on our flowers and rice birds feed in the fields across the road. We have made a ritual of watching the sun set and of guessing which nocturnal creature's ululation we shall sleep by. (We still haven't figured out which animal or insect produces the sound of crashing billiard balls.)

Maintaining our small editorial outfit could have been a problem had the Philippines not jumped from the quill pen to the computer age in a single bound. While landline telephones are still unavailable or just don't work in some places, the Internet is buzzing in the most remote barangays. With cell phones, scanners, computers and fax machines dotting the landscape, we are as in-touch as we ever were in Manila.

Where do we go from here? The operative word here is "Go." Anytime the road beckons and we're free, we'll be out of the door in a shot. But, as Theroux says, "All travel is circular... After all, the grand tour is just the inspired man's way of heading home." When the journey is over, we know exactly where we want to be.

Anita Feleo and David Sheniak recently launched their second collection of travel essays, "Cabinet of Wonders and Other Laguna Stories" from Anvil. Their first book, "Two for the Road," also published by Anvil, won the Manila Critics Circle's National Book Award, travel category, in 1988. The writers run an editorial shop called 2 Many Words out of Bay, Laguna.

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by Eric S. Caruncho

His studio is now on most tourists' itinerary, but the artist isn't complaining. Life's cool in this summer resort, and you're not just talking about the art scene

Bencab's Baguio

With fellow Baguio artists

"IT'S THE WEATHER," SAYS PAINTER BENCAB WHEN ASKED WHY HE MAKES HIS HOME IN BAGUIO CITY. AS IN, OF COURSE IT'S THE WEATHER, STUPID. OBVIOUS *BA*? NOBODY MOVES TO BAGUIO FOR THE STRAWBERRY JAM.

Not that this has stopped anyone from pestering the artist for interviews about his adopted home, when he'd rather be painting, or trekking through the rugged hills just a stone's throw from his back door, or having a quiet drink with friends in one of his Session Road hangouts.

Bencab's studio, his Zen-inspired rock garden, and Tamawan—the artists' village he helped start five years ago – have been featured innumerable times in newspaper articles, lifestyle magazines, televisions programs. Every time, it seems, some media type feels the need for a quick Baguio junket.

So identified has the artist become with the City of Pines that it's easy to forget that he's not a native.

After 13 years spent living in London and its damp chill, the mere thought of living with Manila's sweltering summers was unendurable

Bencab moved to Baguio in 1986, a fortuitous two weeks before the snap elections, after 13 years spent living in London. Having acclimatized himself to England's damp chill, the mere thought of living with Manila's sweltering summers was unendurable.

Luckily, a cousin happened to be selling his Baguio cottage, tucked away in a quiet corner of Aurora Hill. To raise the cash, Bencab lost no time auctioning off a treasured collection of 16th- to 18th-century Philippine maps, painstakingly assembled through years of sifting through musty London booksellers' drawers. Within weeks he had moved in and set up his studio, just in time for the Baguio arts renaissance that bloomed in the wake of post-Edsa euphoria.

"I didn't feel isolated in Baguio, or miss the action in Manila," he remembers. There were kindred spirits aplenty: Baguio homeboys such as Santi Bose and Kidlat Tahimik as well as fellow expatriates from the lowlands, among them Wig Tysmans, Robert Villanueva, Rene Aquitania and Dave Baradas. Wild art "happenings" – in the full '60s sense of the word — at the Rock Session club alternated with quiet, productive days in the studio.

"Baguio is my work place," says Bencab. "I go to Manila to sell my work, catch up on the latest movies, plays and exhibits...And of course, to see Annie," he hastens to add, referring to his partner who happens to live and work in Manila. But he can only endure Manila for three or four days at the most, before the tug of cooler climes pulls him back.

Baguio is not what it used to be, he admits. Downtown is overcrowded, the air which used to smell of pine resin is now polluted with diesel fumes spewed by ancient jeepneys, and it now costs P20 to park on Session Road (just like Makati!) The recent kidnapping and murder of two Baguio students has also cast a pall over the city and made residents uneasy.

But Bencab can't imagine living anywhere else. In fact, he recently left his old digs at Aurora Hill for a bigger spread closer to Tamawan village, with more space for the new garden that he is building, rock by rock.

"Can you imagine getting this much space in Manila?" he asks. "It would cost millions!"

The view from Tamawan. "Baguio is my workplace."

Every day, he says, he walks to Tamawan village to participate in group activities or just to hang out with the other artists.

"My studio is now on the itinerary," he sighs. Visitors will occasionally knock on the artist's door and ask to see his paintings, his bonsai or his famous garden. "It's overrated," he says self-deprecatingly, although the garden – or rather, its predecessor in Aurora Hill – was featured in Lily O'Boyle's book "Philippine Gardens."

Ever the gracious host, Bencab is usually too polite to refuse these requests from total strangers. With weather so fine, how could he?

A little bit of history, a great deal of progress and a whole lot of Visayan attitude: A native son talks about the Cebu he calls home

Sugbu Sedux

SHORTLY BEFORE LANDING IN CEBU, COMING OUT OF A CATNAP, I THOUGHT MY DREAM HAD TRANSPORTED US TO RIO DE JANEIRO. THERE, OUTSIDE MY AIRPLANE WINDOW, WAS A STATUE OF JESUS BEAMING PEACE AND LOVE – JUST LIKE THE ONE ON CORCOVADO.

But it was Cebu all right: the floodlit statue had replaced the rotating beacon atop the water tower on the hill near the airport. In the old days, pilots on night flights could spot that beacon, with its unique pattern of alternating green, white, and orange, from a hundred miles away. "I have the field in sight," they would report while still over Roxas City, Capiz. Nowadays they seek Jesus.

The modern city still tries to live up to its old name, El Ciudad del Santissimo Nombre de Jesus, although by now it's probably equal parts holy and unholy. The religious fervor of the natives, best seen during the Sinulog in January, is second to none. The Sinulog honors Christ the King, and its centerpiece is the Santo Niño that Magellan gave, in 1521, to Rajah Humabon's wife, Rani Humamay.

Cebu is a Spanish monk's misspelling of Çubu, a variant spelling of Zubu, which was the Spanish attempt to transcribe "Sugbu." The word itself is open to different interpretations. Depending on how it's inflected, *sugbu* could be the roll of sea waves through which the first inhabitants waded from their *balanghais*, which could come only so close to shore. Or it could mean "burned down." Legend says the founder of the city, Sri Lumay Bataugong, under attack by a Tagalog tribe, burned the town down and fled with his people to the hills.

History repeated itself when Legazpi arrived in 1565. Legazpi's forces were eventually reduced to eating "all the cats and dogs in the city." He sent men scouting around for a new capital, and in 1571 he transferred to Manila.

This demotion may explain the hauteur Cebu can still command. Cebu was Legazpi's first choice; it was the capital, for the initial six years, of the colony called Phelippinas. And it lost that distinction honorably, carrying out the desperate scorched-earth policy Sri Lumay had found necessary from the very beginning.

In certain ways Cebu can look at Manila with just a hint of disdain. Manila may be the seat of power, but Cebu has a soul all its own. The Visayan language that Cebu speaks has not dissolved into the Tagalog language, perhaps because it's too rough. It makes Visayan tongues so thick they can never speak Tagalog without a horrid accent.

The author (inset); the colorful Sinulog festival (below)

In Cebu, everything is eaten with vinegar. Roast pork goes with vinegar and crushed garlic. Raw fish, *kinilaw nga isda*, must be virtually cooked in a vinegar-pepper-ginger marinade. Even *balut* is eaten with vinegar. Scratch a Visayan and he'll sweat vinegar.

Visayan wit is acetic, too, and I don't mean acerbic; I mean vinegary. His penchant for *bugal-bugal*, or mockery, makes the Visayan a natural font of bad jokes and horrible puns. He's quick to seize on just exactly what makes somebody uncomfortable and rib him about it. It's his way of expressing affection. People not used to this, such as some Tagalogs from Manila, can find that it gets their goat. The *bugal-bugalon* Visayan knows he'll get paid in his own coin. He can take it. It's what makes him so laid-back; he's learned not to sweat the small stuff.

Perhaps the water has something to do with it, too. Manila water is soft, lathers easily, and feels good in the stomach. Cebu water, filtered through all that limestone in Cebu's soil, is hard. On the other hand, all that calcium carbonate in the water gives Visayans good teeth, and prevents osteoporosis in the women. Older Visayan women, with their strong bones and straight teeth, can become dragon ladies at a moment's notice.

Geography drew city founder Sri Lumay Bataugong to Sugbu, and the geography of Cebu is my delight. The beaches of Mactan, Talisay, and Liloan are all just an hour's drive away. The hills behind the city offer places — bars, discos, fine restaurants — where the temperature gets as cold as Baguio's. Night owls know that Fuente Osmeña never sleeps.

The first bridge between Mactan and Mandaue was opened in 1974; 20-odd years later it was so congested it had daily rush-hour traffic jams at both ends. The second bridge, named after the late Sen. Marcelo Fernan, was opened in 1998 and has restored traffic flows to sanity.

Nobody remembers Sri Lumay nowadays. Rajah Humabon once had two hotels named after him, the Rajah and the Humabon. Lapulapu has a monument at the site of the Battle of Mactan, several statues, and he had the city of Opon renamed after him. (The fish called the *lapulapu* was not named after him; it's the other way around. He was named for the fish.) Magellan has a monument near the spot where he was killed; he too once had a hotel named after him, and he still has Calle Magallanes. Legazpi has a street in Cebu, not to mention a city in Bicol. But nothing in Cebu is named after Sri Lumay.

Despite that oversight, the spirit of the city founder with his scorched-earth policy lives on. Sri Lumay needs no monuments, no statues, no streets. The Sugbu that he founded, a city that thought nothing of immolating itself, is still that: a city that knows how to leave the taste of ashes in the mouths of its enemies.

Cárlos Cortés was born in Cebu City, grew up in Mandaue, and works in Mactan.

Shoulder to **Shoulder**

Good government is a long-term mission, and Akbayan! wants another term to see it through

Did the party list groups make a difference in the previous Congress? Only in that they exposed a lot of horse trading during the passage of controversial bills and made trapos quake in their Gucci loafers. That there is a place for whistle blowers in Congress is a good enough reason for Akbayan! to run again under the party list system.

Rep. Etta Rosales

What is your party's official name and what sector are you supposed to represent?

AKBAYAN! or the Citizens' Action Party is a multi-sectoral grassroots-oriented party that carries the issues of different sectors within the party platform for "Good Governance."

Who are your nominees, and can you tell us about each of them?

Nominee no. 1 is myself, Loretta Ann P. Rosales, incumbent representative of AKBAYAN in the 11th Congress, a former teacher. I started my public political life representing the teachers' sector. Nominee no. 2 is Prof. Mario Aguja, a young professor from the Mindanao State University and a peace advocate in peace talks negotiations between the government and the MILF. Nominee no. 3 is Gerardo Bulatao, former political activist, Undersecretary of DAR during the Ramos administration, and now chair of the Institute for Politics and Governance (IPG), a development NGO closely working with AKBAYAN!

What is your party's platform or legislative agenda?

At the heart of AKBAYAN's platform is the advocacy for good governance. We believe that Filipinos deserve a good government responsive to their interests, and the key here is two-fold: one, by voting competent and accountable people into public office, and two, by developing an active citizenry to intervene intelligently and critically in the making and enforcement of government policy.

What are your core values, commitments and beliefs?

Basically, self-worth. I've figured out that once you can come to terms with yourself in all honesty, then it becomes easier to nurture relations with the rest of the world.

What experiences shaped who you are?

My experience in public and political life as active advocate of human rights causes in the mass movement – the tempering experience of working both in the underground and in the open mass movement; of being a teacher in the university and of being tortured in a detention camp; of being both street parliamentarian and member of the powerful House of Representatives.

Who are your political role models?

Nelson Mandela, because of his humanity, his great understanding of democracy, his respect for and engagement in revolutionary struggle and his vision for the liberation of his people. In the Philippines, Jose Rizal, Marcelo H. del Pilar and Andres Bonifacio are all very inspiring revolutionary leaders of their time.

How will you govern if elected?

The key to good governance and good legislation is to learn from the people and be guided by what they objectively need and subjectively desire.

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

It's Your Choice

*Editor's note: The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** continues its contribution to the Philippine Daily Inquirer's "Voter's Voice: Eleksyon 2001" coverage with a series of short profiles of candidates. Each issue, the magazine will feature some senatorial candidates, either party-affiliated or independent, to help voters get to know the people running for national positions. We will also speak to some party list representatives and, as a reminder that this election will have repercussions in our very own backyards, a few unique stories of local government candidates from small communities all over the country. We will feature the interviews as they come; thus, the candidates will be profiled in no particular order. We are proud to be carrying out this project in cooperation with GMA-7. Watch out for more profiles of the senatorial candidates every evening on GMA's news programs "Saksi" and "Front Page."*

REUBEN R. **CANOY**

LDP-Puwersa ng Masa

A former mayor of Cagayan de Oro City, he was publisher of a community newspaper in Mindanao, newspaper columnist and vice president of the Radio Mindanao Network. He produced and wrote the script of a Joseph Estrada film, "Sa Dulo ng Kris." *After working for the Marcos administration, he joined the opposition in 1976 and authored several books including the anti-Marcos tome, "The Counterfeit Revolution."*

Who has been the most important person in your life and what did you learn from this person?

My parents, Mariano and Laureana Canoy. They were both public school teachers and they taught me the importance of a good education, honesty and service in private and public life.

If you could go back and undo one decision in your public life, what would it be and why?

To have collaborated for four years (1972-1976) with the Marcos government. When martial law was declared, I fell for the line that it was intended to "save democracy," do away with traditional politics and fast-track national economic development.

What's the most important decision you ever made? And what happened?

To resign from the government in 1976. During the Marcos regime, I held four positions concurrently: city mayor of Cagayan de Oro, undersecretary of public information, presidential action officer for Mindanao and chair of the Southern Philippines Development Authority. All who knew me thought I was foolish to give up such powerful and prestigious positions but I could no longer tolerate being part of a corrupt and oppressive dictatorship.

Tell me a time when you followed your conscience in the face of strong public opposition.

I was for Edsa I but took a public stand against Edsa II. Edsa II forced a change of government by the military and a minority of civilians without the consent or participation of Filipinos living outside Manila and it undermined the rule of law and the supremacy of the Constitution.

What have you done that you are proudest of in your public life or political career?

To have run in 1978 as a candidate of the Mindanao Alliance against the Marcos party, Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, and to have won a seat in the Batasang Pambansa as the lone opposition member from Mindanao. During this time I questioned the legitimacy of the Marcos regime and wrote "The Counterfeit Revolution," the only book to come out during martial law that dared to expose the Marcos dictatorship.

When you think of leadership, what words and images come to mind?

Consensus, consultation, openness, humility, honesty and service.

Stella O. Gonzales

DR. JUAN M. **FLAVIER**

Lakas-NUCD-UMDP-People Power Coalition

The sensible health programs he implemented when he was health secretary came from his long experience as a barrio doctor. Of the many programs he launched, one of the most successful was "Oplan Alis *Disease," a massive anti-polio vaccination program. It became a model for many developing countries and earned the Philippines a polio-free certification from the World Health Organization.*

Who has been the most influential person in your life and what did you learn from this person?

My mother, Francisca Martin. She taught me the values of hard work, honesty and the need to be educated. Here was one unschooled woman, walking up and down the streets of Baguio, looking for old, sometimes torn, clothes from those who had no more use for them. She would repair these clothes,

wash and iron them and then sell them to others for a meager profit. It was this entrepreneurial activity of hers that practically financed my studies in college and medical school.

What experiences shaped who you are?

Living in Tondo, caddying in Camp John Hay, going to and studying in UP, and more than 30 years of working in the barrios with the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement and the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction.

What is the most important decision you have made?

Deciding in 1992 whether to join government or not.

Tell me a time when you voted your conscience in the face of strong public opposition.

I voted in favor of the Visiting Forces Agreement despite a very loud and vociferous opposition to it because I believed that the agreement was more beneficial than detrimental to the country.

What have you done in your public life that you are proudest of?

The passage of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act. The bill was originally filed more than a decade ago but could not even reach legislative second base. As chair of the Committee on Cultural Communities, the burden of defending the bill became mine.

In the Department of Health, I am most proud of the programs where we had great success like Oplan Alis Disease.

When you think of leadership, what words and images come to mind?

Integrity, honesty, strength of character.

What is the most powerful idea you have come across?

Let's DOH It! *Puwede bang magyabang nang kaunti?*

Stella O. Gonzales

SOLITA "MARENG WINNIE" C. **MONSOD**

Aksyon Demokratiko-People Power Coalition

Her father taught her to give people the respect they deserve and not the respect they demand. She got her spunk from her mother who, when still a student at the UP, brought a horsewhip to a powerful newspaper editor when he refused to retract a damaging and inaccurate story the paper had published about Winnie's grandfather. Formerly NEDA Secretary, an economics professor at the University of the Philippines since 1971 and a KBP Golden Dove awardee for her broadcast work, Winnie is focusing her campaign on education.

What experiences shaped who you are?

One of the defining moments in my life was the assassination of Ninoy Aquino. It woke me to the fact that for 11 years I had allowed the sanctum of academe and fear of retribution to silence me against someone who was raping my country and had made a mockery of our freedom and our democracy. In effect, it shamed me into action. After that, it was a "Never Again" situation for me, and I have raised my voice against corruption, incompetence and wrongdoing in government and out of it.

Tell me a time when you followed your conscience in the face of strong public opposition.

I have always tried to stick to my principles and my convictions. And since one of them is to do what is best for the people, the opposition I face usually comes from those who are protecting their own selfish interests. That kind of opposition has never bothered me—because sooner or later, the truth will out.

If you could undo one decision in your public life, what would it be and why?

There is not one decision that I would undo. If there were any regrets it would be not on what I did or said, but how I did or said it. Tact and diplomacy are not my strong suits.

What have you done in your public life that you are proudest of?

Aside from the fact that I have influenced (hopefully for the better) the thinking of at least 20,000 students during the course of my teaching and that I am a strong advocate of human development, two very specific "accomplishments" for which I claim partial credit come to mind. During my three-year stint in Cory Aquino's cabinet, the Philippines experienced (a) the greatest reduction in poverty incidence and (b) the largest increase in employment creation (roughly a million new jobs a year). This record has yet to be equaled. It proved that with the correct government policy and the political will to implement, problems of poverty and unemployment can be solved.

When you think of leadership, what words and images come to mind?

Public service, public trust, public welfare, efficiency, equity, commitment, and servanthood.

What is the most powerful idea you have come across?

There is nothing that can happen to me today that God and I together cannot handle. **Stella O. Gonzales**

In from the **Cold**

There must be hope in electoral politics when staunch government critics like Sanlakas decide to join the fray

ITS INITIAL message during the snowballing oust-Erap movement provoked puzzlement at best: "Resign all!", Sanlakas banners exhorted. But these days, people have no trouble reading the intention of the party closely associated with slain revolutionary labor leader Popoy Lagman For sure, Sanlakas is joining the legal and open struggle as one of the contenders for the party list sector.

What's the name of your party and what sector do you represent?

Sanlakas fights for the rights, welfare, and interests of the working class, urban poor, middle class and professionals, women and the youth.

JV Bautista

What is your political platform and legislative agenda?

Sanlakas has a 12-point political platform which includes working for the welfare and rights of the basic sectors, protection of the environment and good governance.

Who are the nominees, and why are they the most qualified for the position?

The lead nominee is myself, Jose Virgilio Bautista, former student leader and human rights lawyer. The other nominees are Wilson Fortaleza, former student leader and labor activist known for his advocacy of workers' rights; Nilda Lagman-Sevilla, former teacher leader and long-time legislative chief of staff; Alex Padilla, human rights lawyer, former Customs Commissioner and Local Government Assistant Secretary, and Alex Amador, educator and incumbent municipal councilor in Mindanao.

As lead nominee of Sanlakas, what are your core values, commitments and beliefs?

Love of country; faith in God and our people; commitment to the socio-economic uplift of the masses; human rights; justice and fair play; honesty and integrity in governance; hard work and competence.

What drives and motivates you?

The conviction that the Filipino deserves a better life than what they have now. I believe that the purpose of life is to make the world better than when you found it.

What experiences shaped who you are?

My family life; my UP education and radicalization; my involvement in student activism and the national democratic movement; the taste of tear gas, water cannons, truncheons and prison; the cumulating victories of the mass movement; the fulfillment of delivering justice in small doses in my daily struggle in court.

When you think of leadership, what ideas and images come to mind?

What comes to my mind are the historic images of Bonifacio and the Katipunan leading the first nationalist revolution in Asia. In our time, I think of Nelson Mandela, of Lorenzo Tañada and *Ka* Pepe Diokno.

What have you done that you're proudest of in public life?

Having stood up to a dictatorship together with the Filipino people to the point of being thrown into prison with slain student activist Lean Alejandro.

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

A Temporary Homeland

MY BEST FRIEND OPHIE CHUCKLED, WITH A MIX OF DELIGHT AND EMBARRASSMENT, AS THE HOUSE OWNER'S SON HOLLERED THAT SOME BROWN WATER WAS STARTING TO DRIP ON THE KITCHEN CEILING BELOW MY RENTED ROOM IN BARANGAY PUNTOD, CAGAYAN DE ORO. PUNTOD IS AN OLD SETTLEMENT BUILT ON THE SWAMPY FLOOD BANKS OF THE CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER; PUNTOD MEANS HILL EVEN WHEN IT IS THE FLATTEST, BELOW-SEA-LEVEL AREA ON THIS PART OF THE EARTH.

You see, my little aerie's kitchen sink has had no drainage for the past two years and eight months. I am no longer charmed by this discomfort, and Ophie, visiting me after five years, helped me to recognize it now as a major inconvenience.

I shall have left this part of the city to settle elsewhere by the time you are reading this. And yet even as I move on I shall still be here, allowing this city to charm me with some other discomforts: jeepneys running too fast through the alleys at night, the lack of pedestrian walks for the several times when I was penniless and bent on walking home the two kilometers from Divisoria along Velez and Julio Pacana Streets, the middle-class squalor that makes people quarrel in the middle of dawn over money, *(ko)medya-medya* in the media, the electrical wiring hanging above us like giant black spaghetti noodles.

Once I told my colleagues at a dinner that this city and its people have become for me a habitat, a way station, a launching pad where I had encamped on the way to where stories are in Northern Mindanao. Where in the heat of an April night, moon over the talisay tree planted by cousin Fenito two decades ago outside the windows in Puntod, I conjure my first home and family in Villalimpia, Loay, Bohol and the cherry blossom tree there blooming with globes of firefly-light. Where I think of past "temporary homelands," as Alison Hawthorne Deming would call those places "where one had never lived long enough to become anything more than an outsider" and nurse regrets over growing unpaid debts and unmet deadlines.

"Even as I move on, I shall still be here, allowing this city to charm me with some other discomforts"

Ophie had come to visit in January in the midst of the impeachment trial and stayed till mid-February. Long enough for her really to have become my guide in the re-exploration of this city. I brought Ophie to Blueberry Café on Velez St. where she liked the soft lights, the comfy couch, and my favorite print, Kabayong Papel, and coffee was served in stoneware mugs. Her own wanderings brought me to new places here: Homefront, the book and magazine rental shop owned by Terry Pimentel, daughter of Sen. Nene Pimentel, which remains for us a quaint little shop of solitude and literature. (Manny Valdehuesa sings the same praises for Quesa Lluch's Lifetime Learning Center over by the sidewalk off Gaston Park.) She led me to Mailbox, where we got free Erap Resign stickers and black bands in late January, watched TV tuned in to a live broadcast of the trial, ordered brewed coffee and on the side got professional and attentive service.

Samantha Sagaral

Lina Sagaral Reyes

Sagaral-Reyes (inset) tiptoes through the city's quiet streets, as children frolic at Gaston Park at Cagayan de Oro City

As for daily food fare, together Ophie and I explored *carinderias* like Ato-Ato Kan-anan (Velez cor. Chaves Sts., across Blueberry) with what Ophie called the best *tinola* this part of the world; old reliable Rofel's Eatery (Pabayo St.) with its *tinunuang nangka* cooked in creamiest coconut milk and with lots of tomatoes; Balay Kan-anan, the coop eatery managed by the development workers of Balay Mindanao Foundation Incorporated which greeted us with its array of veggie dishes for non-meat eaters like us.

Coffeephiles, we sought places for our after-impeachment trial brew. At Bigby's along Hayes Street, which is slowly becoming the city's food row, and at Grand Hotel Lobby and Honeybaked, both along Velez Street. But it was coffee at the VIP Hotel Lobby that we found perfect for a night cap. By chance, we found SN Food Products (by Bricktown) owned by a Neri sibling where we got our supplies of tofu, dried gluten, and garlic peanuts. We fell in love with its siopao stuffed with mushrooms. Along Corrales, we got soymilk and tao-hu, again by chance after missing Rose's Pancit Palabok. For fresh vegetables, we go to Cogon market at night, way past 9 p.m. and overload our baskets with a week's supply of vegetables and fruits for less than a hundred pesos. In Barangay Carmen, we shared a liter of fresh milk (P38) between us from the dairy farm of Bong and Beng Pelaez. One rainy noon, we tried a halal restaurant in Cogon. Its name? "Halal Restaurant." It was on a no-name street but I will easily recognize the acacia tree by the road next to the restaurant.

Gazebo, the spacious display center which was once Paolo's Restaurant, now houses an array of well-crafted ceramic products, furniture and candles by the Paras Industries. In Archipelago, the antique shop on Montalban Street, we got black beads and circa 1965 Hiwaga komiks for P30 each, and a Manobo basket for my tomatoes and onions. At the Glema's Stoneware in Bulua we had a grand time helping ourselves to imperfect seconds and overruns of expensive pots, plates and mugs made by Filipino hands out of German white clay. At Loreto's (Nazareth), we spent Valentine's 2001 listening to young people croon love songs as we sip our first ever Cerveza Negra.

When Ophie comes back to Cagayan de Oro in July, I will suggest that we try the new café along Corrales Avenue Extension called Casual Brew that was introduced to us by Happy Raagas. We hope to venture further to Claveria and sleep overnight in a vegetarian community in AposKahoy or watch dolphins at dawn in Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental. And maybe, just maybe, find a way to get back to the hill in Barangay Lumbia where the satellite dishes are and where the mayor's controversial bungalow stands behind concrete walls. Maybe this time through the telescope's powerful lens, we will finally see how Barangay Puntod would look as the tip at the mouth of the silver liquid snake that is the Cagayan de Oro River.

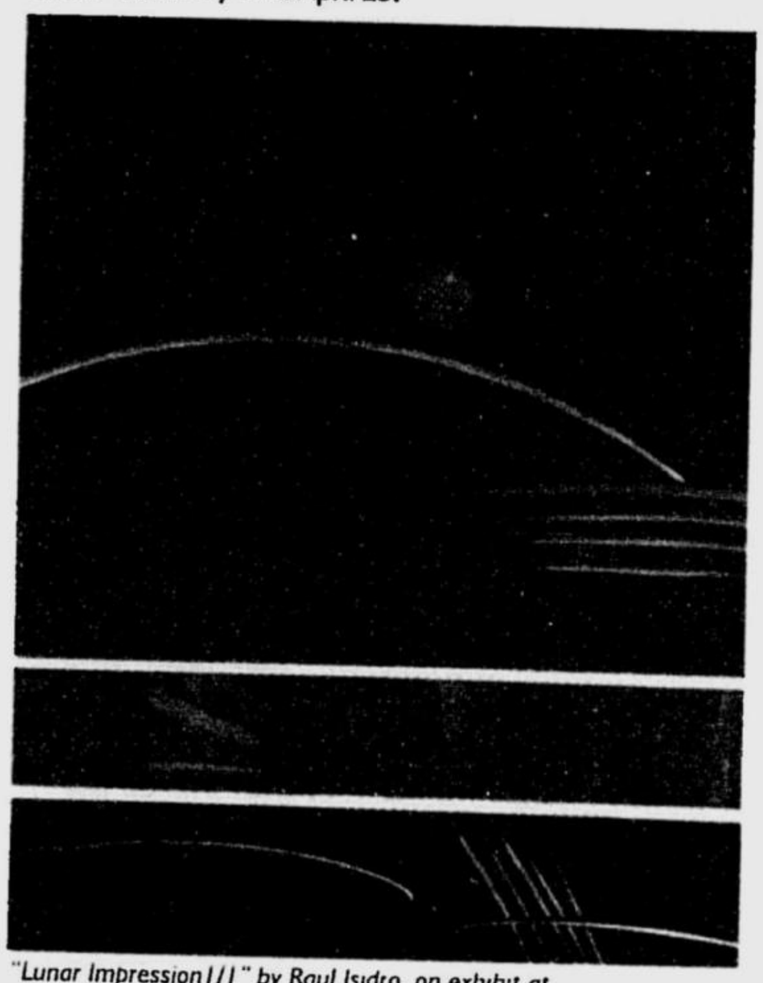
Lina Sagaral Reyes has traveled to California and Bali and has lived in Bohol, Negros Oriental, Manila, Baguio and Zamboanga del Norte, where she would dispatch stories to the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Newsbreak and the Women's Feature Service.

This Week

Art

White, a solo exhibit by Tony Leaño at the Lopez Museum Shop, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell until May 1.

Thoughts from the Gutter, a one-man show of paperworks by Jojo Lofranco at The Drawing Room, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City until April 25.



"Lunar Impression I/I" by Raul Isidro, on exhibit at Galleria Duemila

Raul Isidro, a Mother Earth series featuring printmaking techniques ongoing until April 30 at Galleria Duemila, The Artwalk, 4/L SM Megamall Bldg. A.

With My Deepest Anthropologies, a series of paintings and a major sculptural piece by Juan Alcazaren until April 29 at Finale Gallery, SM Megamall.

The Alcove presents a **photographic collection** portraying the life of the Sakadas in Negros by George Cabig ongoing until April 30 at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Music

Bastien and Bastienne, a comic opera in one act by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to be performed by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra on April 24, 7:30 p.m. at the CCP Little Theater. For details, call 832-1125 loc. 1800.

Tribute to Serge Gainsbourg, a special evening of live music and videos that document the life of the French composer, April 26, 7:30 p.m. at the Alliance Francaise de Manille bar-restaurant. For details, call 895-7441.

Food

Mandarin Oriental's Tin Hau Restaurant prepares an exquisite menu of **authentic Szechuan dishes** ranging from sweet and sour to hot and fiery Northern Chinese dishes until May 6. Also, savor the unique flavors of Israel as the Captain's Bar holds an Israeli Food Festival until May 2.

Cinema

Alliance Francaise de Manille will screen the movie **"Taxi 2,"** featuring the new adventures of Daniel, the crazy taxi driver in the streets of Marseilles (with English subtitles) at Alliance Suez Auditorium, April 25 at 8 p.m. For details, call 895-7441.

Big Sky Mind Artists' Projects presents a free screening of the 1967 Japanese film **"Branded to Kill"** by director Suzuki Seijun on April 24, 9 p.m. at Big Sky Mind, 66B Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, QC.

Atbp

Cynthia Ongpin-Valdes will give a **lecture on Antique Ceramics Found in the Philippines** on April 25, 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the Benpres Executive Lounge, Ortigas Center. She will also shed light on the various artifacts of the Calatagan excavation currently in the Lopez Memorial Museum. For details, call 631-2417.

The CCP Visual Arts Unit is offering courses on **Children's Art Workshop** open to children 6 to 11, and Basic Drawing and Painting Workshop for 12 and above starting April 24. For details, call 832-3702.

Junior Writers' Club will hold a workshop for children 11-16 on children's fiction, non-fiction, and how to submit to an editor on April 23 to 27 at the 4th Flr., Earthlite, COD, Cubao, Quezon City. For details, call 831-3705.

Clean Body Clean Mind together with professional photographer Robert Altamirano will offer **Basic Photography Workshop for Kids.** Classes for Batch 2 will start May 2 and Batch 3 on May 15. For inquiries, call 532-6395.

The **Family Tree** of Basilio Lopez and Maria Sabina Jaranilla Jalandoni is undergoing revisions. Registration, update and correction forms may be obtained from the Museo Iloilo, Mayfair Plaza in Bacolod and at the Lopez Museum, G/F Benpres Building, Pasig City. Deadline is on or before April 30.

The **Kodaly Society of the Philippines** is holding a variety of courses: An Introduction to the Kodaly Method, April 25-27; A Seminar-Workshop on Kodaly Methodology and Choral Techniques, April 30-May 11; Music and Movement for Children: the Dalcroze Method, April 23, and a special course in conducting from April 30-May 11. All courses will be held at the UP College of Music, Diliman, QC. For details, call 831-7165 and 833-9003.

The Actors Workshop Foundation is holding workshops on acting for film and television. The **Craft Workshop Series** (The Eric Morris System of Work for Actors) for teens and adults is scheduled from April 22 to May 20. For details, call 723-2297.

CalCarrie's International Models' Personality and Image Development Center is offering courses on **Personality Enhancement,** basic modeling, professional modeling, corporate imaging, public speaking and broadcasting. For details, call 884-0350.

Jim Paredes conducts **"Tapping the Creative Universe" workshop** from April 23-May 9 at the Center for Health and Creative Arts. Uncover, identify and set aside creative blocks through challenging inner exercises. For details, call 426-5368 or email chacra@netgazer.com.ph.

Escuela sa Museo will offer introductory courses on Basic Drawing, Beginners Oil and Beginners Watercolor for adults on April 25 and every Wednesday. Another batch will start on April 28. For inquiries, call 812-1191 to 97 loc. 130.

The San Miguel Culinary Center will conduct **cooking demo classes** for teens 13-18 on April 23-17 and May 7-11. The course teaches the basics of cooking and baking and how to tackle recipes in the kitchen. For details, call 671-9876 to 91 loc. 402.

Workshops on Wheels will take off with the theme "Poetry in the City" on April 28. The module is recommended for beginning writers, college students and people in different careers who are thinking about writing. For details, call 752-2737 or email roland@pinoywriters.com.

The Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association of the Philippines will present the 20th **National Hairstyling and Make-up Competition and Seminar** on April 27 at the Philippine Trade Training Center.

X-manila

Camp Crickett, a summer camp for boys and girls 8 to 14 on April 26 to 28 at the Forest Club, Bay, Laguna. Activities are outdoor crafts, fishing, hiking, swimming, field trips, arts and crafts, stargazing, outdoor games, face painting and trolley adventure. For details, call 729-9106 and 726-8506.

Sanferthoughts, an exhibit by Edwin Joseph Edralin depicting the thoughts and ideals of La Union until May 20 at Oasis Country Resort's Coffee Shop, San Fernando City, La Union. For details, call (072) 2425621.

Courses on **Baking, Sugar Crafts and Cake Decorating, and Paper Recycling and Handmade Paper Making** for children and adults will be held on April 23-27 and May 1-5 at FC Manaog Creative Crafts and Culinary Arts Service, 414 Minnesota St., 4 Ext. V&G Subd., Tacloban City. For details, call (053) 523-1793.

Pinoy NGA!

Aparri

by Jess Abrera

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.

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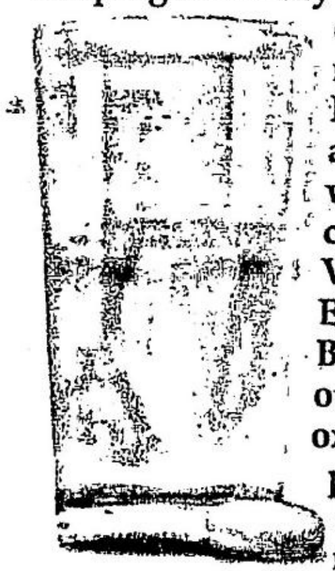

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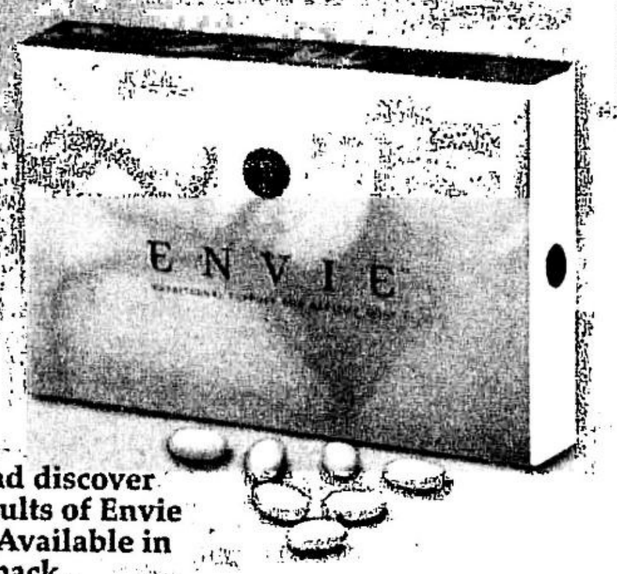

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